

OCC squabble ends in board win

By TIM RICHARD

Board secretary Helen Kaiser won a 15-week sabbatical leave from Oakland Community College, but not before elected trustees hurled bitter words at the administration.

In a 5-0 vote with one trustee abstaining, Mrs. Kaiser was voted a leave to study the archives of eastern seaboard and Michigan colleges preparatory to setting up the 15-year-old college's own archives.

"Don't kid yourself. You're not following policy," said President Robert F. Roelofs of the entire procedure. "She's not faculty or administration. She's one of a kind. She works for you folks . . . I have no supervision over her."

BOARD CHAIRMAN Lila Johnson called Roelofs' remarks "insulting and inappropriate."

Earl Anderson, vice chairman, added, "The secretary of the board is nobody's damn business but the board's. . . If the board wants to send her (on sabbatical), it's no one's damn business."

Anderson added that OCC has need for proper storage of records, adding that rain had destroyed records in the past "because they were stored in the wrong place."

Mrs. Kaiser said nothing. Sabbatical comes from the word "sabbath." Generally, a faculty member must have taught seven years minimum before being granted such a leave for scholarly purposes at half-pay.

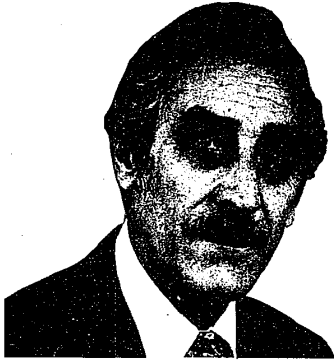
MRS. KAISER, who has been with the college since its founding, drafted her sabbatical proposal and gave copies to the board.

She put no copy in the "press kit" of board meeting documents. When Chairman Johnson asked Roelofs if he had evaluated Mrs. Kaiser's request, Roelofs replied that he hadn't seen it.

Mrs. Kaiser is paid about \$25,000 a year. Roelofs said that in most colleges the board secretary's function is performed by an administration staff member, rather than a board employee, because "there's not a great deal of work to do between meetings."

He added that a college librarian could advise on setting up archives. Because she works directly for the board, Roelofs said OCC sabbatical policy "does not apply to Mrs. Kaiser. You folks can do whatever you want."

Suarez entering Dem exec race



GEORGE SUAREZ
Against SEMTA

George W. Suarez, mayor of Madison Heights, has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Oakland County executive.

Suarez, 53, will face County Commissioner Thomas Leonard, D-Royal Oak, in the Aug. 5 Democratic primary. The winner will likely face incumbent Republican Daniel T. Murphy in the fall.

Suarez is director of purchasing for the Oakland County Road Commission. He said the issue of public transportation "will be one of my fortes."

He supports Oakland County's withdrawing from SEMTA, the seven-county regional transportation authority. He lobbied against state preliminary funding of the SEMTA 1990 transportation plan, which includes a segment of subway in Detroit.

The road commission has long advocated the county withdraw from SEMTA and form its own transportation authority alone or with adjacent counties like Macomb.

"I'VE DECIDED to seek this office because of encouragement from both Republicans and Democrats," Suarez said. "I've always thought that the Oakland County executive should have been a non-partisan office, and when I'm elected, it will be treated that way."

Besides public transportation, Suarez said he will emphasize toxic waste control, solid waste disposal, and "lack of leadership" in the county as major issues.

Asked if his entering the race may split Oakland Democrats, Suarez said, "I really don't know. They (county party officials) haven't talked to me."

He said he will seek the endorsement of the county Democratic party.

Suarez has been mayor of Madison Heights since 1977. He has also been a Madison Heights councilman for four years.

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