

Dems nominate locals for UM, MSU seats

Stuart E. Hertzberg of Bloomfield Hills and Elizabeth P. Howe of Rochester are Democratic Party nominees for the University of Michigan Board of Regents and Michigan State University Board of Trustees, respectively.

The two long-time party activists were among candidates for the Michigan Supreme Court, State Board of Education and Wayne State University Board of Governors nominated Sunday by more than 3,000 delegates to the state Democratic convention in Cobo Hall, Detroit.

Partisan elections for the education spots and the state high court non-partisan election will be Nov. 4.

HERTZBERG, 53, an attorney who has held Democratic party positions for 26 years, defeated Gregory Scott, 29, an U-M teaching assistant, 2,486-631, for one of the U-M nominations. Nellie M. Varner, 45, of Detroit a real estate broker and former U-M Graduate School associate dean, was unopposed for the other nomination.

Howe, 44, an employee relations director for Bendix Corp., was unopposed for one of two MSU board nominations. Currently a precinct delegate, she was a national convention delegate, as was Hertzberg, and was chairman of the Oakland County Democratic Party for five years.

William D. Byrum, 36, of Onondaga, owner of a 1,500 acre farm and executive vice president of the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, was the other MSU Board nominee elected by the 3,154 delegates. He defeated Joel I. Ferguson, 41, a Lansing real estate developer, 1,790-900. A third MSU board hopeful, John Roy Liskey, 29, of East Lansing, part owner of a restaurant and self-employed retailer, received 446 votes.

Hertzberg, Varner and Howe were endorsed by the labor caucus, crucial for state Democratic convention nominations. The labor caucus remained neutral on the Byrum-Ferguson race.

THE "TREMENDOUSLY high cost of education," will be his major campaign topic, said Hertzberg, a U-M undergraduate and law school alumnus. He called a recent 13 percent U-M tuition hike, "prohibitively high."

Hertzberg said 92 percent of U-M's budget is from state appropriations and tuition. "Both of these sources of revenue," he said, "are at near absolute limits."

He said he will encourage more private corporation endowments and expanded federal grant programs for the university.

Scott, a past president of the Graduate Employees Organization, opposed Hertzberg regarding the university administration's six-year fight with the graduate teaching assistant's union.

The GEO, which represents some 350 U-M teaching assistants, has been without a contract since 1976. The union has been in a legal battle with the university regarding the employee status of the teaching assistants, who are also students.

Two Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) administrative law judge decisions confirming that the assistants are employees have been appealed by the university. The case is now pending before a MERC appeals board.

Hertzberg said Scott misinterpreted his position on the labor dispute, which he called a "false issue." The university ought to sit down and negotiate with the GEO," he said.

Scott, who endorsed Hertzberg after the vote, said, "It's not enough to sit down and bargain unless they (the university) bargain via dropping the appeal."

The GEO, which went through a month-long strike five years ago before getting its first contract, plans to pressure U-M Democratic regents to drop the university's appeal. The Democrats hold a 6-2 board majority.

MSU CANDIDATE Howe indicated she won't emphasize the well-publicized dispute between MSU President Cecil Mackey and the university's alumni association.

"I want to judge him (Mackey) on the big issues," Howe said. "It's not the biggest burning issue but it might be an indication of a bigger problem."

"Whether or not Mackey was the correct choice should be argued on a much more significant level than the status

of the alumni association."

She said the dispute over control of the alumni association "pales with the real problems we have," which include university funding and MSU graduates finding jobs.

Howe said she told the Democratic Party's various caucuses that she "can stand full public scrutiny at any time," a reference to former MSU Democratic Trustee Michael Smydra, who resigned earlier this year after his expense spending was called into question.

THE CURRENT party breakdown the MSU boards is 6-2 in favor of the Democrats. The Nov. 4 candidates will

seek eight-year terms.

Earlier this month, the Republicans nominated UM regent incumbents Deane Baker, 55, an Ann Arbor commercial builder and David Laro, 38, a Flint lawyer.

For the MSU board, the GOP nominated Flint conservative attorney Paul V. Gadola and Tom Reed, a DeWitt area farmer; neither are incumbents.

While Howe called the spin-off of the national presidential race a "very, very important factor" on state-wide education offices, Hertzberg downplayed it.

"Now you have so damn much split-ticket voting," he said, "you can't tell."



STUART E. HERTZBERG



ELIZABETH P. HOWE



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