

Resources

school told: Do research

The University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources, one of "the prime innovators in natural resource education in the country," can and should consider "some alteration in faculty endeavors and in current programs."

So said the U-M Budget Priorities Committee which has reviewed the School of Natural Resources. The report noted its recommendations could result in a significant budgetary savings.

The school, along with the School of Education and the School of Art, is being reviewed under the university's five-year plan of reducing general fund programs by \$20 million and reallocating that money into high priority needs.

THE COMMITTEE said:

"We of the budget priorities committee are deeply sensitive to the inevitable trauma to the faculty and students of the school that was caused by the review process."

"However, we are confident that this particular review process leads to exciting opportunities for beneficial evolution of the school."

The school, established in 1927, enrolled 853 students and had an instructional staff of 45 during the 1981-82 year. Its undergraduate program stresses the integrative approach to resource management. The school also offers master's level programs in several fields and a doctoral program through the Rackham School of Graduate Studies.

"WE APPROVE the recommended shift in the balance between research activities on the one hand, and professional activity and practical training on the other," the committee went on.

"We agree that it is appropriate that the balance be redressed to add more emphasis to the research side of the scale, in keeping with the overall values of this university."

"We agree with the recommendation that the PhD program be enhanced, that there be a major reduction in the number of undergraduate students, and a modest reduction in the number of master's degree students."

"Changes in the degree requirements would decrease somewhat the time burden on the faculty to allow more opportunity for research. Reducing the size of the student body should enable the school to be more selective in its admissions."

"We agree that the school's educational programs could be improved if there were consolidation of teaching efforts at both the undergraduate and graduate levels."

"There should be intellectual continuity and consistency between the undergraduate and graduate programs, including a solid core of work in contributing disciplines and a hierarchical sequence of courses that emphasizes integrated learning experiences."

"WE ENDORSE the budgetary target recommended by the subcommittee report. We recognize that better economic prospects for the university later this decade could alter some of the parameters and priority decisions that will be made."

"However, we have closely examined the subcommittee's rationale and methodology and we believe that the subcommittee is correct in concluding that a substantially improved program for the school can be developed within the recommended budget, even though this implies a reduction of approximately one-third" by 1987. The school's 1981-82 general fund budget was \$2.4 million.

The committee concluded that "at times like the present, when there is severe budgetary stress, many difficult tasks and many painful decisions are thrust upon the university community and its leaders. Nevertheless, some of these can furnish opportunities to strengthen the university and its constituent parts."

The six-member faculty-student subcommittee met with various representatives of the school, conducted two extensive public hearings, and received 534 letters from 525 individuals and groups. The subcommittee also worked with external consultants.

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Don't use Burt's card — Ma Bell

Don't bill that long-distance call to Burt. That's the message Michigan Bell and Burt Reynolds have for anyone who may have heard the rumor that the Hollywood actor is sharing his telephone credit card with his fans.

"I have no idea how the rumor started," Reynolds said recently, "but I'd like to clear the air once and for all — there just isn't any truth to it."

"I'm sorry my name is being used in this fraudulent manner," he continued. "I feel as much a victim as the people who have been misled by this whole scam."

WHERE the rumor came from and how it snowballed is a mystery to everyone.

The Burt Reynolds hoax, which surfaced a couple of years ago, goes something like this: Reynolds supposedly won a large cash settlement in a lawsuit against a major company. Not needing the money, he allegedly announced in the media that people could use his telephone credit card to place long-distance calls until the money from the suit ran out.

"The story is pure fiction, and it's costing Michigan Bell customers thousands of dollars a week," according to Harold N. Peacock, head of Michigan Bell's security department.

The phony credit card number, along with other details of the story, change constantly, making it difficult for Michigan Bell to stop the bogus calls, Peacock said.

"BUT WE ARE making every effort to track down callers who use the number and bill the long-distance charges back to them," he added.

"The use of a phony Burt Reynolds credit card number may seem innocent, but it really is fraud," he said. "It's against the law, and it's punishable by a \$500 fine and six months in jail."

Moreover, all those million Michigan Bell customers end up sharing the financial burden of schemes of this nature," Peacock said. "In the last year, long-distance fraud — including credit card fraud — cost Michigan Bell customers \$7 million in the form of higher charges on their phone bills."

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