

Appeals panel closes doors to talk

By Carol Azizian
staff writer

The former chairman of the Oakland County Personnel Appeals Board is charging the board with violating the state Open Meetings Act.

County Commissioner James Doyon, D-Madison Heights, made the allegation last week after the board "threw him out" of its meeting.

"I'm putting the board on notice," Doyon said. "I will go to court and suggest that the county also sue the board if they continue to conduct business behind closed doors without following proper procedures for closing meetings to the public."

The appeals board met to determine whether Sgt. Jack Kratt of the Sheriff's Department should be restored to his lieutenant's rank with back pay.

OAKLAND COUNTY Sheriff Johannes Spreen had demoted Kratt to sergeant. Spreen claimed the former lieutenant supported a petition drive seeking the sheriff's resignation.

The board heard concluding arguments from both sides, but stopped short of making a decision because Doyon refused to leave the meeting, said Mattie McKinney, chairman of the appeals panel.

"I wasn't willing to let him sit there while we were going through deliberations," said McKinney.

"We took a vote to close the meeting because we thought deliberations should be held in private. When Doyon was chairman, he closed meetings to decide a case."

But Doyon said the board failed to comply with the Open Meetings Act when it took the vote.

"THE ACT calls for a two-thirds roll call vote. They just took a voice vote."

In addition, Doyon said, the board failed to comply with provisions in the act that restrict the conditions for closing a meeting.

The act allows a public body to meet behind closed doors to consider the disciplining of a public employee only when the employee makes the request.

"Kratt was neither asked nor did he request a closed meeting," Doyon said.

Doyon admitted he held some closed meetings when he was chairman. "But, when a citizen objected, I kept the meeting open. When I raised my objections, they wouldn't even listen."

DOYON BELIEVES board members asked him to leave because they think he's "too friendly with the sheriff."

"I've never marched lockstep with Spreen," Doyon said. "But I do think Republicans on the committee have been unfair to the sheriff (a Democrat)."

"This just makes me more suspicious of them."

Arms race topic at OCC

A full-day symposium entitled "The Arms Race to Where?" will be presented at the Oakland Community College Auburn Hills Campus, 2900 Featherstone Road, east of Pontiac, on Thursday, March 10.

Lectures highlighting such topics as the biological effects of nuclear war and the arms freeze will be given in Room F-119 at noon, 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Films will be shown at 10 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.

The Rev. Erik Kolbe and Capt. Harry Noyes will be featured in a special evening debate on national security at 8 p.m.

Complimentary coffee and tea will be served.

For pre-registration, call the college at 853-4241.

"Republicans don't want any Democrats in the house because they want to use the appeals board as a whipping post for the sheriff."

A few weeks ago, Doyon charged Republicans were playing partisan politics when they failed to reappoint him to the appeals panel.

Doyon plans to seek an opinion on the matter from Jack Hays, corporation counsel, he said. He hopes to use that opinion as ammunition in his lawsuit.

Hays declined to comment, saying he wanted to "research the facts first."

Criminal justice course offered in area by MSU

The director of Michigan State University's School of Criminal Justice will visit MSU's Birmingham Center March 14. Dr. Robert Trojanowicz will meet and interview persons interested in pursuing a master of arts in criminal justice at the Birmingham facility.

Trojanowicz will be at the center, 20300 W. 13 Mile Road at Evergreen, 3 p.m. Monday, March 14. There will be open group meetings at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Appointments should be made in advance by those persons requesting a private meeting between 4 and 6 p.m.

To receive further information about the program or to arrange an appointment with Trojanowicz, call MSU at 645-5410.

MSU offers evening coursework in

criminal justice in Birmingham. Criminal justice personnel can complete two-thirds of their master of science in criminal justice degree program at the MSU Center in Birmingham. Individuals may enroll in a course without being formally admitted to the degree program.

Criminal Justice Management Issues (three credits) will be offered this spring from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 30 to June 1. This course looks at the management requirements of the criminal justice process in transition. Problems and innovative concepts of criminal justice system development, decision theory, information needs, planning, personnel and budgeting will be explored.

OU enrollment drops fewer older students

Oakland University's winter enrollment is 11,001 — down 1.4 percent from the same time a year ago.

OU isn't taking in enough new students to maintain enrollment, said David C. Beardslee, director of institutional research.


Undergraduate enrollment is 9,196. Graduate enrollment is 1,805. This winter, however, OU had the largest senior class in its history, with 2,375 students. The junior class enrollment is 2,371; sophomore, 2,076; and freshman, 1,786.

In addition, 588 students attend post-bachelor or second-undergraduate-degree programs.

Throughout most of the last 10 years, enrollment of 18- and 19-year-old men declined. But that decline was offset by the rapidly increasing enrollment of older men.

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MARCH 26 9-5:30

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Thurs. & Fri. Evenings 6:30 to 9:30
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