

OCC back acts quickly to pick Hackett

By Tim Richard
staff writer

When you know whom you want to appoint, you don't need an elaborate procedure.

Six Oakland Community College trustees met Wednesday to draft a procedure to fill a vacancy in their ranks, but instead elected former trustee David Hackett.

"He was the next person on the ballot," said Trustee Douglas Wakefield, noting Hackett was edged out in the June 10 election.

"His credentials are well known. I say let's bring Dave back."

HACKETT, OF Rochester Hills, felt "good" about being back on the board where he had served — and had been re-elected all but once — over a period of more than 20 years. A former Michigan Bell managerial employee, Hackett quit industry

to become a second-grade school teacher in Detroit 17 years ago and retired in June of 1985.

In the 1986 election, three trustees were elected, and Hackett ran fourth in a field of eight. But even before the night was over, he recalled, "four members mentioned to me" the possibility of appointment to a vacancy.

The reason: Board chairman Suzanne Reynolds "had been negotiating for several positions out of state. It was expected she would be leaving," Hackett recalled in a telephone interview.

AND REYNOLDS did leave. After being hired as director of college development for Lake Sumter Community College in Leesburg, Fla., she resigned as an OCC trustee Oct. 23. Hackett will serve the last 1 1/2 years of her term and then will have



David Hackett
back on OCC board

to go before voters to stay on the board.

He will take his oath at 8 p.m. next Thursday when the unpaid board holds its monthly meeting. (Meetings

are usually the fourth Thursday, but this month's session was advanced because of the Thanksgiving holiday.)

On paper, the vote was 6-0, but the feeling wasn't unanimous.

ACTING chairperson Sandra Ritter of Waterford called Wednesday's special meeting "to discuss a method of replacing the board vacancy."

Ritter wanted applications through a letter of intent, reasons for seeking the appointment, resume and statement about their understanding of a trustee's role and responsibilities. And she wanted to set a special Dec. 4 meeting to review applications.

Ritter also was concerned about the preponderance of educators on the board. With Hackett, the lineup will consist of six present or former teachers or administrators and one union retiree.

Supporting her was Trustee Norma Ross of Madison Heights who suggested, "It might be a good time to bring in a new outlook."

BUT IT BECAME clear the other

four trustees — a clear majority — wanted Hackett back. The meeting lasted only a half-hour.

"Number one," said Earl Anderson, dean of the trustees with 23 years service, "it's just common sense. The things Dave Hackett has learned bring about stability."

"I liked the way the board operated before when it brought back a retired trustee to fill a vacancy," said Trustee Margaret MacTavish, in her seventh year. "I don't want to announce a vacancy and go through a long personnel process."

"To get a good board member," said Trustee Judith Wiser of Southfield, "you have to have somebody

who wants to be on the board. Mr. Hackett wants to be on the board."

"The group will work better if the group is comfortable. It's not because he was next in line (on the ballot)."

Hackett earned a reputation for jumping on environmental questions and advancing the cause of women in community college administration and programs. Ironically, he lost his '85 re-election bid when three women topped him at the polls — Wiser, MacTavish and Ross.

And he said he's glad to be back. Now that he's retired from a full-time job, he said, "The pressure is off."

WSU's capital need \$137 million

The Wayne State University Board of Governors wants \$137.7 million from the state budget for construction and maintenance projects for the next five years.

The request includes funding for seven projects valued at \$117.5 million and maintenance, renovation and fire protection projects priced at \$20 million on the mid-town Detroit campus.

TOP PRIORITY is \$11 million for construction of a new administration building. President David Adamany said, "It would replace the 61-year-old Mackenzie Hall."

The present administration building was constructed as the Webster Hall Hotel in 1925 and purchased for use by the university in 1946.

A major renovation of Mackenzie Hall has been estimated at \$6 million more than the cost of constructing a new building.

Second on the priority list is \$27.6 million for construction of a new biological sciences building and renovation of Science Hall.

The biological sciences department is presently scattered throughout six different buildings. Science Hall was built in 1947, and many of its facilities are now obsolete.

OTHER MAJOR priorities: \$31 million for construction of an undergraduate library. It would include a learning resources center for audio, video and computer-based

learning. It would also provide greatly expanded facilities for housing a rapidly growing library collection.

\$29.5 million for renovation of the Old Main classroom building. Old Main is the oldest and largest classroom building at WSU. Built in 1896, it is a registered historical site. Money for its renovation is also being raised through a private fund drive.

\$12 million for renewal of the Criminal Justice and Administrative Services buildings (ASB I and II).

\$3.5 million for renovation of the Purdy/Krege Libraries.

\$2.9 million for renewal of the mechanical system in the Coon Building.

A LUMP SUM allocation of \$20 million will be spent on maintenance and fire safety projects that are needed to maintain the value of university facilities.

WSU plans to begin construction in late November of a new \$5 million, four-story parking structure providing 1,075 spaces for student cars.

Clifford M. Van Buskirk, assistant vice president of WSU business operations, said completion is set for September 1987.

The new structure, to be financed with a bond issue, will be located on the northwest corner of Anthony Wayne Drive and Kirby Avenue, currently a 400-car surface parking lot.

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