

OCC board ponders new Auburn Hills president

BY RANDA ARMBRISTER

Students and staff at the Auburn Hills campus of Oakland Community College may soon get a new president. Monday night the board of trustees interviewed the final candidate for the position, John Michael Meade, who is vice president/dean of student services at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn.

The appointment is expected to be made at the board's regular meeting on Monday at the administration building off Oakley in Bloomfield Hills. Each campus of the college is headed by a president, who directly reports to the OCC chancellor, Rick Thompson. That structure was a topic of discussion during the meeting, at one point demonstrating that the candidates have a sense of humor, among other qualifications that the 13-member selection committee believed merited his appearance before the board.

With five presidents vying for resources, how would he ensure the Auburn Hills campus would get its fair share, asked one trustee. "Must wrestling," he replied, to general laughter from the audience.

Expanding on his answer, Meade said, "A campus is like a child of a family. It takes trust and cooperation with strategic planning to get over the rough spots."

Wiser told him that campus presidents compete at budget time, but after support to reach other the rest of the year. Meade who holds a doctorate in guidance and counseling from The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C., is one of the seven candidates out of 35 applications whom the search committee interviewed. He was first interviewed in an open session in June by the community college, he was involved in developing a consulting program on site at Ford Motor Company. "I required extensive, heated and long negotiations," he said.

Other programs he helped develop were training for President Ture and physical therapy, the first that had been established in five years. Meade added that he also participated in a technical investment committee at Henry Ford that helped get personal computers for use in their programs and for use in political sociology classes.

The candidate was asked how he would handle an anticipated mid-year budget shortfall. Meade said he would meet with the deans of the college to see if any place could be cut without having an impact and also see if there were ways to raise revenue.

Trustee Sandra Ritter said she was concerned that there is a "lack of coming together" at OCC, which she described as a commuter college. "The more involved students are, the happier they are," Meade said. He outlined programs he had started for students at Henry Ford as an exercise room; nighttime variety sports; to free up day time use of the gym for students; founder of an academic student organization. He added that student government and on campus employment were other ways of involving students.

Meade also told the board that he would make sure organizations were open to all students and that he would have an open door policy.

Meade said that he would "undertake the culture of the institution. It's difficult to lead before you understand what's going on," he said.

Following that, Meade said he would "set strategic goals that would move the entire institution forward."

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Joining hands: Enjoying the hoopla are Robert Gosselin (left), Candice Miller, Cathy Longo, John Bowker, Jim Willoughby and Frank Edwards.



Delegates find Kemp a 'turning point'

SAN DIEGO — Catching up on Oakland County delegates during the annual whirl of the Republican National Convention.

Bob Gosselin, mayor pro-tem of Troy, wanted his picture taken with U.S. Rep. Joe Rothman, D-Bloomfield Hills, even though Troy isn't in Rothman's district.

"He is our adapted congressman," Gosselin said. "I go to him for telecommunications information. Joe's been a good source."

Gosselin, besides his city post, is a Pat Buchanan delegate to the national convention. "I really use a Texas Sen. Phil Gramm man, but I'm supporting Pat Buchanan because he has a lot of good ideas. It would be worth while to have him speak."

At this writing, Buchanan was scheduled to speak at his own events on Sunday, prior to the convention. "I really use a Texas Sen. Phil Gramm man, but I'm supporting Pat Buchanan because he has a lot of good ideas. It would be worth while to have him speak."

"I was a Kemp supporter in '88," said Gosselin. "I brought some of my old Kemp signs along. He's a perfect person to be vice president, though I would have liked John Engler to be it. People don't have to learn about Kemp."

For Gosselin, a General Motors employee, this is his second convention. He was in Houston in 1992. This year he took a shot at partisan office, challenging Oakland County Commissioner Dan Devine in the primary.

Devine won, and Gosselin said, "He deserved it and worked hard. I will support him and campaign for him."

"So far it's wonderful," said John Bowker, a Bloomfield Township Republican who was part of a reform state in the Aug. 1 primary.

"The Kemp selection is the turning point. And if Dale announces his Cabinet any time before Oct. 15, it's going to be a real horse race" against President Bill Clinton.

That's when a lot of people get their absentee ballots, said Bowker, who did not swim but a lot of political talking during Secretary of State Candice Miller's Sunday afternoon pool party in the delegation's Holiday Inn on the Bay. They were formal and old-fashioned, but the "hat ladies" were a fashion hit of the Michigan delegations' Sunday poolside.

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Hat trick: Mildred Pangman of Rochester Hills joins the action on the convention floor.

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