

Grote Blasts SC Union For 'Politics'

By TIM RICHARD

In often bitter terms, President C. Nelson Grote delivered a blistering response to a faculty union's suggestions for budget savings at Schoolcraft College.

Dr. Grote called the Faculty Forum's budget task force report "primarily a political document, shrouded in a budget or cost - saving report," and charged the union was really raising the issue of "governance of the college."

Grote's greatest fire was directed at the Forum's suggestion that six of the 10

administrators called "area directors" be eliminated at a total estimated savings of \$30,000, and that the community college return to the principle of elected department chairmen.

THE FACULTY FORUM, collective bargaining agent for some 160 instructors, counselors and assistant librarians, was invited last fall to make budget suggestions and made a survey to which 62 per cent of its members responded. That report was delivered to the board of trustees last Feb. 18, and Dr. Grote was asked to respond.

He did.

"It must clearly be pointed out that the area director issue was not one of economics," he said, noting that the area directors aren't members of the union. The "areas" are social sciences, industrial, business, math - science, fine arts and liberal arts.

"The implications are perfectly clear that the intent (of the Forum) was to do away with the area directors in some manner so that their duties could be given to members of the bargaining unit, hence reinforcing the need for and enlarging the scope of the present department heads.

"A basic principle that must be kept in the forefront when they are members of the same union as those they are supervising."

GROTE SAID the Forum's attack on administrative costs

is "unwarranted when Schoolcraft is compared to the 27 community colleges in Michigan who report similar data."

"The Legislative Fiscal Agency staff shows our FYES (full year equated students) cost for education and general administration to be \$69 per FYES, which places us in a rank order of 22 out of 27, with the highest reported on comparable data at \$278 per FYES."

Grote said many faculty members were probably "attempting to be helpful and were sincere," but he had a far different opinion of the Faculty Forum's leaders:

"If the Forum was really interested in assisting the administration concerning ways of better utilizing our resources, they would at least have consulted with the administration or have suggested a joint committee to formulate and/or analyze the questionnaire and the data gathered."

GROTE DENOUNCED the Forum report for suggesting only revenue increases and administrative cost cuts:

"There was not a single example of what the faculty could do that would effect savings to the college (nor) were there any explicit

examples as to how the faculty might better serve the student or improve the quality of instruction at either the same cost or at a reduced cost."

For example, while there was a blatant attack on the cost of the area directors, there was no comment about the fact that if the faculty had permitted the administration to have implemented the minimum teaching load as required in Public Act 121 of 1971 . . . the college would have saved \$208,573 during the fall and winter semesters of 1971-72."

The president implied the Forum leaders simply didn't know what they were talking about:

"Those of us involved in the total operation of the college realize that when one change is made, it is like trying to pull a single fiber out of a spider web without moving the whole web. In other words, there aren't easy solutions for complicated problems, especially where people are concerned."

TURNING TO specifics, Grote made these comments on Forum suggestions:

- Laboratory fees, revenue of \$41,510 - "In view of the fact that tuition has been raised 10 per cent with the 1972-73 instructional college year, an increased burden of fee changes would place an undue cost on the students."
- Moreover, if Schoolcraft established fees similar to other institutions, revenue would rise only \$25,000.
- Make community service programs self - supporting - "The programs have been self - supporting with no additional support from the general operating fund."

Grote noted a "philosophical difference" here: "In governmental accounting, one budgets on the basis of established needs rather than making allocations to centers before needs and priorities are established."

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Semi-finalists from the Plymouth JA Center are Frank Stuleck of Northville, vice president of sales; Suzan Shoushanian of Westland, personnel director; Mary Schroeder of Plymouth, personnel director; and Jim Kraus of Plymouth, safety director.

Redford JA center finalists include Cherie DeGraf of Livonia, president; James Abowd of Farmington; president; David Abowd of Farmington, vice president of sales; Elizabeth Abowd of Farmington, treasurer; Marypat Abowd of Farmington, personnel director; Louise Koeppe of Detroit, treasurer; Steve Schmenk of Dearborn Heights, purchasing agent; and Michael Schmenk of Dearborn Heights, safety director.

The three finalists from the Telegraph JA center are Marie Koltunichik of Redford Township, vice president of sales; Michael McCarthy of Dearborn Heights, treasurer; and Kathy Scott of Dearborn, bank executive.

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