

## Faculty will go to court

A divided Schoolcraft College faculty is scheduled to go to Wayne Circuit Court next week because it dislikes a state fact-finder's proposed salary settlement.

The Faculty Forum voted by a narrow margin not to accept the fact-finder's report," said union President William Nickels following a Sunday night meeting.

The leadership sees it's being told to get Judge (Thomas) Roumell to re-enter the case."

About 100 persons attended the meeting. Voting was by secret ballot. Nickels said there is an "attitude of discouragement" among part-time faculty. "The part-time people say they are so disgusted they may just quit teaching at Schoolcraft College," he said.

**FACT-FINDER** George Roumell Jr. recommended a two-year contract with full-time instructors getting annual raises of 7 and 6 per cent. But he recommended a raise for part-timers that figures out to 4.5 per cent the first year and nothing the second year, according to the faculty.

Nickels said the board of trustees' bargaining team was asked to sweeten the offer to part-timers but refused.

"Not true," replied college President C. Nelson Grote. "The team has latitude to make movements as long as they stay within a fixed dollar amount."

To pay part-timers more than recommended by the fact-finder, Grote

said, would require paying full-timers less than the recommendations.

"They (the Forum team) won't buy any movement of money from full-time to part-time faculty. They want us to add dollars," Grote said.

**GETTING MORE** money to part-timers had actually been the highest priority in the board's strategy, Grote said.

"We recognized that our rates (for part-timers) are low and wanted to improve them. But as we put money on the table, how those dollars are spent is negotiable."

If the college had been able to decide unilaterally how much to pay, the president added, part-timers would have been given a better package.

In fact, he said, the fact-finder tried to improve the situation by giving part-timers the entire amount of raises in a single year rather than stretching them over two years. That is why there appears to be no raise the second year of the proposed two-year pact, Grote said.

**NOR IS** the problem as simple as part-timers versus full-timers, he said.

Part-time money includes salaries of persons who teach only a course or two, but it also includes supplements and "overload" pay for regular full-time faculty.

Thus, the Faculty Forum appears torn not just between the 160 full-timers and 130 part-timers, but within the ranks of the full-timers.

Rumors circulated that some faculty members would petition for a new vote because only 100 of the 350 eligible persons attended the Forum's Sunday night meeting.

**JUDGE ROUMELL** was on vacation this week, union chief Nickels said, and wouldn't be available before next Monday.

The judge got into the case after an illegal eight-day strike by faculty and secretaries late in September. He ordered non-binding fact-finding as one of the terms for the two unions' return to work.

Judge Roumell vowed to re-enter the

case if fact-finding failed—as it apparently has.

The secretaries union has reached tentative agreement with the college on the basis of the fact-finder's report. But it has pledged not to ratify a contract until the Faculty Forum has a tentative agreement, too.

Grote said the college had planned to pay retroactive salary increases in the checks of Dec. 8 and 22 if new contracts could have been ratified in time. The new contracts are worth a total of \$102,000 in benefits to both unions the first year of the contract in fiscal 1978-79 and \$24,000 next year, he said.

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