

Oakland announces faculty promotions

The Oakland University Board of Trustees on Aug. 5 approved faculty promotions and the appointment of department chairpersons.

The faculty members, hometowns and disciplines, are listed below.

Michael Latcha, Redford, mechanical engineering, promoted to associate professor effective Aug. 16.

John F. Halpin, Auburn Hills, philosophy, given early tenure and promoted to associate professor, as well as Barbara Mahood, Rochester Hills, German, and Albert Meehan, Birmingham, sociology. All three promotions were effective Aug. 16.

Nine faculty were re-employed and will be promoted to the rank of associate professor Aug. 15, 1994. They are: Mohammad Bazaz, Rochester, accounting; Joyce Eckart, Rochester Hills, curriculum, instruction and leadership; Kevin Grimm, Royal Oak, English; Michael Hertzler, Rochester, biomedical sciences; Devadatta Kulkarni, Rochester Hills, mathematical sciences; Anshid Kulwicki, Troy, nursing; Sandra Pelfrey, Romeo, accounting; Panajiotis Sakkalis, Auburn Hills, mathematical sciences; and Dyanne Tracy, Auburn Hills, curriculum, instruction and leadership.

Carlo Coppola, Birmingham, was given a one-year extension as program director, International programs, and nine department chairs were appointed. Departmental chairs are: Eileen Peacock, Rochester, accounting and finance; Janice Schimmelman, Rochester, art and art history; Kevin Murphy, Detroit, economics; Naim Kheir, Rochester Hills, electrical and systems engineering; Ronald Swartz, Troy, human development and child studies; Renate Gerulatis, Rochester Hills, modern languages and literatures; Norman Tepley, Bloomfield Hills, physics; Lawrence Lilliston, Rochester, in Grimm, Royal Oak, English; Cramer, Rochester Hills, reading and language arts.

State school aid Suburban districts catch a break

By TIM RICHARD STAFF WRITER

Suburban school districts won't be as badly hurt by the new \$3.5 billion state school aid bill as they feared.

The Michigan Legislature Tuesday adopted a money bill that contains fewer "Robin Hood" items than an earlier Senate-passed version.

"It's like taking two poison tablets instead of 10," said Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, who opposed the measure because of harm to Southfield, Farmington and Novi school districts. "It still makes you woozy, but you're not dead."

"It increases the local costs of Social Security that historically were paid by the state. But it's not as much as they could have lost," Faxon said.

"On balance," said Rick Simonson, legislative agent for Oakland Intermediate School District, "what I'm hearing is that our schools prefer this to some of the alternatives."

"Probably the best bill we're gonna get," agreed Gerald Dunn, lobbyist for 10 Wayne and Oakland county districts. "It's decent for the in-formula districts (those eligible for state aid) and respectable for the out-of-formula. Retirement wasn't touched."

"I'm going up north this evening," said Rep. Maxine Berman, D-Southfield. "I always vote no on anything. The retirement part is OK. I'm surprised the in-formula districts are going along with it."

What's in, out

The compromise version emerged at 6 p.m. Tuesday from a Senate-House conference committee and was passed that evening by both chambers. Faxon was the lone member of the conference committee to oppose it.

Here's how Observer & Eccentric area lawmakers voted:

Voting yes were Sen. R. Robert Geake, R-Northville and Sen. David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield. Voting no were Sen. Mat Dunaskie, R-Lake Orion and Sen. George Hart, D-Deerborn.

Sen. William Faust, D-Westland had an excused absence and did not vote.

In the state House voting yes were Reps. Barbara Dobb, R-Union Lake, Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills; John Jamian, R-Bloomfield Township; Jerry Vorva, R-Plymouth and Deborah Whyman, R-Canton Township.

Area reps voting no included Lynn Banks, R-Redford Township, Penny Crissman, R-Rochester; Greg Kaza, R-Rochester Hills; William Keith, D-Garden City and Richard Young, D-Deerborn Heights.

Not voting were Maxine Berman, D-Southfield and Justice Berra, D-Westland.

Here are key elements of the bill for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1:

Retirement — The state will continue to pick up 95 percent of the cost of pensions for school district employees instead of shifting those costs to local districts. Retirement costs

will be up \$100 million. Since the total available money will be up only \$40 million, operating money actually will drop \$60 million.

FICA, a Senate-House conference committee Act (Social Security and Medicare), which the state paid entirely in past years — Lansing will shift 25 percent of the cost to poorer districts (those with less than \$125,000 in property values per pupil), give nothing to the richest districts (those with \$250,000 per pupil), and grant something between zero and 75 percent for those in between. "This takes away FICA from all the richest districts," said Oakland's Simonson.

"Recapture," the practice of voting categorical aid (such as special ed and bilingual instruction) and then taking away the money from richer districts — It will rise 20 percent to \$87 million next year from the current \$72 million.

Adult education — It will be funded at 80 percent of past levels. This was good news to lobbyist Dunn, who feared even harsher cuts.

Tax-base sharing — It's repeated. Districts that had paid into an escrow account will get back their money, plus interest. Faxon noted with satisfaction. The tax-base sharing law required richer districts, mainly in the suburbs, to share half their commercial and industrial property tax growth with poorer districts. No dollars ever were shared, however, because the law was being challenged in the courts.

Gov. John Engler is expected to sign it.

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