WSU candidates all say college tuition or fees are major issue

BY TIM RICHARD STAFF WRITER

It's a constant struggle to keep Wayne State University afford-able, both in tuition and fees, candidates for its board of gover-

nors agree.

Every candidate attending a recent public forum before the American Association of University Women in Livonia listed tuition or fees as a major issue. Candidates are quoted in the order in which they replied.

Vernice Davis-Anthony (R) listed the threatened loss of state and federal aid as the chief problem for disadvantaged students. She also cited attacks on affirmative action. To address the need for technology, the board passed a student fee.

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John Kelly (D) said WSU's
challenge ie "to maintain affordability and access. More people
are being squeezed (in attempting to go to college). "He also
called WSU "a think tank and a
place for the business community to internet with research."

Wayne State University Board

Description: A research university with 14 colleges and schools. WSU enrolls about 33,000 students on its Detroit campus and extension centers. Butget is nearly \$500 million. It also has a medical campus near five hospitals.

Terms: Eight-member board of governors is elected for eight-year terms; two are elected in even years; nominated at party conven-

CANDIDATES:

- REPUBLICANS ELIZABETH P. HARDY, incumbent, elected in 1990; attorney in Birmingham firm; resident of Franklin Village; previously an aide to two U.S. senators.
- Mount L. DAVIS-AHTHONY, incumbent, appointed in 1996 and 1997; Farmington Hills resident; senior vice president of community health at St. Johns Health Systems in Detroit; for-mer director of the Public Health Department and director of the Community Health Assets. Wayne County Health Department
 - DEMOCRATS
- ➤ JOHN KELLY, Grosso Pointe, former state senator for 16 years; currently teaching at Oakland University; has taught at WSU and UD-Mercy; attorney and political scientist; former Army reservist and National Guard officer.
- RON AMEN, Dearborn, a chief steward in the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, negotiated union contracts; completing work on master's degree at WSU.
 - LIBERTARIANS
- > SCOTTY BOMAN, Detroit, teaches in Highland Park schools.
- > Tom JONES, Detroit; no biography available.

Scoty Boman (L) attacked the technology fee that Davis-Anthony favored. The omnibus fee is up to \$120 for undergraduates and \$150 for graduates, over and above the tuition increase. It was passed at the beginning of summer, when there was very little time for students to respond. I collected 500 signatures on campus. There was no response (from the board of governors). Boman added that nuch parking space has been lost.

Ron Anne (D) said the recent

Ron Amen (D) said the recent ton Amen of said the recent tuition increase could put costs beyond many students' reach. He promised to be "the voice of the student." He will finish his degree work before the next board term begins.

Elizabeth Hardy (R) and Jon Coon (L) were no-shows.

Charter schools

Of the 100 or so public school academies chartered in the state, Wayne State has chartered only one. Candidates were asked whether WSU should do more charterian.

Davis-Anthony (R): "I hope we can charter more" because charters are a good thing. "Wayne

believes in teacher education."
Kelly (D): "Charter schools
were meant to be an experiment.
They were never designed to
take over all education. The first
evaluation is coming in; there
are 34 sets of criteria. We need
to see if they do improve education—or an opportunity to get
rich quick."

Bown (L): "I'm get comfett

Boman (L): "I'm not comfortable with the state takener of taxes for school funding. As a public school teacher, I see no reason why the state shouldn't have variations. We could expand on charter schools."

expand on charter schools."

Amen (D): While charter school supporters are vocal, "We don't hear about the charter schools that have failed. We don't hear about those that start the year with 300 pupils and end up with 30. They're an opportunity for some people to make money. I wouldn't want to see "Wayne State hearms a charter." money. I wouldn't want to see Wayne State become a charter mill."

Open meetings

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Candidates were asked their attitude toward the Open Meet-ings Act, which requires that candidates for president be

interviewed in public after a closed screening process. Retired WSU President David Adamant had argued strenuously for a closed process.

closed process.

Kelly (D): "People want to know how decisions are made. We need to make sure qualified candidates aren't chiled (by too much pre-hiring publicity) that can create problems back home (where they currently work). The final stages – perhaps the last 10 candidates – should be open."

Amen (D): "It's not important for 50 or 60 applicants (to be an open list). Once we get down to the short list," interviews should be open.

ne open.

Davis-Anthony (R): "We were able to test the new law," which required the five finalists to be interviewed in public. That process worked. There are some difficulties, but I support the present law as it stands."



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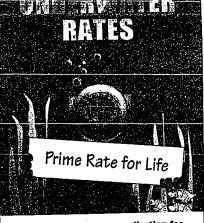


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