

MINUTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING
of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
July 15, 1971

Present: Trustees Carrigan, Hartman, Huff, Martin, Merriman, and Stevens; President Wharton, Provost Cantlon, Executive Vice President and Secretary Breslin, Vice Presidents Muelder, Perrin, and Wilkinson; Dr. Nonnamaker, Mr. Ballard, Mr. Carr, and Mr. Spaniolo.

President Wharton called the meeting to order and announced that three sets of presentations would be made, all of them relating to the University's residence hall system. He added that the presentation reflected a great deal of work by various committees and groups.

Presentations
re residence
halls

Dr. Wharton introduced the individuals responsible for the presentation: Richard Bernitt, Director of Public Safety; Gary North, Coordinator of Residence Halls, Miss Kay White, Dean of Students Office; Dr. Dorothy Arata, Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education; and Robert Underwood, Manager of Residence Halls.

Mr. North reported to the Board on the recent findings and recommendations of the Residence Hall Security Committee. He indicated that the Committee has attempted to tackle security problems before they reach crisis proportions as they have on many other campuses. Mr. Underwood reported on the various recommendations made by the Committee concerning physical changes which hopefully will improve residence hall security. He added that many of these recommendations have already been implemented or are in the planning stage. Mr. Bernitt pointed out that the Committee was in agreement that the key to residence hall security is education. Mr. North also indicated that seminars on security are being held for all residence hall personnel.

Trustee Carrigan asked if a program could be developed to loan security locking devices to students. Mr. Underwood indicated that this would be looked into.

Trustee Huff asked if the Committee concerned itself with the problem of lighting on the campus. Mr. Bernitt pointed out that this was a serious concern and that better lighting was recommended for several areas of the campus.

Miss White and Dr. Arata reported to the Board on educational programming in residence halls for the past year. Miss White indicated that at MSU there were concerns over the implications of the 18-year old vote and a change in the age of majority in Michigan as they relate to educational programs in the residence halls. Dr. Arata stated that educational programming in the residence halls consists of co-curricula programs, formal courses, and special courses. She indicated that some 550 formal courses were taught in residence halls last year. She also pointed out that this trend was helping to ease to some degree the need for classroom space on campus.

Trustee Martin asked what courses are taught in residence halls. Dr. Arata pointed out that many of the same courses offered at other locations on campus are found in the residence halls. She added that her concern was that more needed to be done in educational programming related to the student's interaction with his peers and the adult population.

Trustee Huff asked about the status of decentralizing the undergraduate library. Provost Cantlon reported that although the University was still committed to this approach little was being done to expand decentralization due to current economic conditions.

Trustee Thompson asked for information regarding academic advising in the residence halls. Dr. Arata reported that much of the advising is done by the University College.

There was general discussion regarding educational programs for juniors and seniors who reside in the residence halls.

Dean Nonnamaker presented a general overview of a recent study of the resident assistant position in the residence halls. Mr. North pointed out that the resident assistant program as it is currently organized has existed at the University since 1957. He presented a brief profile of the 322 resident assistants who will be working at MSU in the fall. He added that the primary purpose of the program is to maintain a climate in the residence halls which helps students pursue their academic programs. He indicated that the major contribution of the study was to develop a job description of the resident assistant which can be implemented and evaluated by the Dean of Students Office.

Trustee Huff asked about student perceptions regarding resident assistants. Ron Stead of the Dean of Students Office answered that many students have little contact with resident assistants. However, he felt that most students would support retaining resident assistants in the residence halls.

Mr. Huff also raised the question of financial need as a factor in selecting resident assistants. Mr. North responded that while financial need was not a formal criterion in the selection process, he would always hope that it would be a consideration. He indicated that the resident assistant position did provide a means of obtaining room and board while attending MSU.

President Wharton thanked the visitors to the meeting for their presentations and the meeting was adjourned.