

SVSU®

**BOARD OF CONTROL
MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 10, 2001



SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF CONTROL
SEPTEMBER 10, 2001
SPECIAL FORMAL SESSION
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I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Vitito called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. with Trustees Braun, Kelly, Sims and Walpole in attendance. He noted that a quorum was present. He asked that special reports on enrollment, charter schools, the Student Center, and Basic Skills be added to the agenda as Item III.

(Trustee Yantz joined the meeting at 1:34 p.m.)

II. ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Resolution to Approve Auxiliary Services-Bonded Facilities Operating Budget for FY2001-2002

RES-1467 **It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:**

WHEREAS, Revenues and expenditures have been forecasted including adequate provisions for debt service and contributions to reserves;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the attached Operating Budget be adopted for the 2001-2002 fiscal year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration is authorized to make capital expenditures as considered appropriate from the Repair and Replacement Reserve with the understanding that a minimum of \$200,000 is to be retained in the Reserve Account as of June 30, 2002. (See Appendix One: Budget)

James Muladore, Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs, told the Board the Auxiliary Services-Bonded Facilities Operating Budget includes the self-supported units of the institution: housing, the bookstore, and parking. The budget this year represents a 17% increase over the prior year, and incorporates for the first time Village II, which is the third and probably not the final construction project on campus for housing. The budget accommodates over 1,400 on-campus residents and also reflects an increase in the reserve balance to \$3.5 million. For the year immediately preceding the expansion of on-campus housing three years ago the University had reserves of \$2.4 million.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

2) Resolution to Approve Purchase and Installation of New Carpeting

RES-1468 **It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:**

WHEREAS, The age of the floor covering in Wickes Hall and portions of Brown Hall has exceeded the normal expected life span; and

WHEREAS, Funds for the replacement of the floor coverings have been budgeted;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the President and/or the Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs are authorized to sign documents for the purchase and installation of new carpeting in Wickes Hall and Brown Hall in an amount not to exceed \$450,000.

President Gilbertson told the Board this project slightly exceeds the delegated contractual authority of either the President or the Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs. The allocation of one-time funding for various deferred maintenance projects was discussed at the last Board meeting. One of these projects is the major refurbishment of carpeting in the most heavily trafficked public places of Wickes Hall and various places in Brown Hall – including the third floor, which contains original carpeting from the 1980's.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

III. SPECIAL REPORTS

3) **Enrollment Report**

Dr. Robert Maurovich, Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management, reported on Fall 2001 enrollments. Tentative official figures indicate total fall enrollments at 8,938 students, for a 3.67% increase over Fall 2000. Undergraduate enrollments are up 3.1%, with 6,460 students. Graduate enrollments increased 3.6%, with 1,620 students. Teacher certification

enrollments increased by 12.5%, for a total of 586 students.

Credit hour totals increased by 4.27%, and the rate of returning undergraduate students increased by 4.4%.

Dr. Maurovich noted that not only were these enrollment numbers very impressive, there is no question that the class coming in this year as freshmen is stronger academically than the year before. At this point in time a year ago, 38% of SVSU's freshman class had Michigan Merit Awards. This year that percentage is 43%. This year the University has 60 Presidential Scholars – students who placed first or second in their high school graduation classes and were either Valedictorian or Salutatorian. Awards for Excellence Scholarships have been granted to 36 students this year compared to 31 last year. These are students who have a 3.75 grade point average and a minimum of a 28 ACT score. Seventy-three University Foundation Scholars were named, 47 of whom reside on campus in the Living Center on the Scholars Floor. The Foundation Scholars must have a minimum 3.40 GPA and a minimum 24 ACT – although the vast majority of them have 3.5 or better GPAs. As well as having high grade point averages, these students have a number of academic awards and their community service activities are well diversified and numerous.

4) Charter School Update

President Gilbertson told the Board that one of SVSU's charter schools has surrendered its charter and gone out of business. Overall enrollment at our charter schools took a surprising and gratifying tic upwards.

Dr. Ronald Schneider, Director of School/University Partnerships, reviewed the attached

Public School Academy 2001-02 Project Enrollment Summary. (See Appendix Two: Academy Enrollments) He noted that the Summary details last year's September count and this year's count as of the past Friday. Enrollments are up by approximately 655 students across the seventeen schools that SVSU charters.

The NewLand Academy in Manistee has surrendered its charter and gone out of business. At one point they had about 130 students. The parents had really wanted this program, so a number of them took out second mortgages on their homes and borrowed almost \$800,000 to build a facility. Staff problems started to occur and they got down to about 55 students. They couldn't make the mortgage payments on the building with that number of students and hire teachers at the same time. Fortunately the Onekama School District decided to work with them and took over the building and picked up the lease. They intend to build a magnet school run by the Onekama Public Schools.

Dr. Schneider noted that he is investigating the possibility of SVSU's chartering another school, as the State is now under the charter cap, and it is unclear whether it is SVSU's to issue, or if another institution can pick it up and issue it.

Chairman Vitito stated: "It seems like we ought to take some leadership and not be too reticent. If we want to maintain that charter, let's move ahead."

President Gilbertson replied that he thought the University might want to issue another charter, but that it hasn't been given any guidance in the matter. If SVSU did sponsor another charter school it would have to be one that would be consistent with the direction the University is trying to take, one in which it could be directly involved.

Chairman Vitito asked whether the Board needed to take action to dissolve the NewLand Academy charter.

President Gilbertson replied that Board action was not necessary: the NewLand Academy has essentially gone out of business and surrendered the charter, which is similar to the dissolution of an organization – they no longer exist.

5) Student Center Report

President Gilbertson told the Board the Administration was not asking for action today, but simply wanted to make the case that, as a companion to the efforts to expand the number of students living on campus and to develop a more vital campus life in accordance with the strategic plan which had been approved by the Board, the physical facilities to allow that to happen needed to be built.

Richard P. Thompson, Dean of Student Affairs, reminded the Board that the strategic planning document adopted by the Board in May of 2000 established a number of goals to be accomplished over the next five years. The campus culture goal talked about creating and sustaining a cultural environment that fosters and supports the personal and intellectual growth of students, faculty and staff; the comprehensive review of the University's co-curricular and curricular activities; and student participation in extracurricular activities. It recommended the completion of various campus facilities, including new student housing, with approximately 1,500 students living on campus by 2004. It also recommended a comprehensive review of campus recreation facilities by 2001 and their expansion by 2003, thereby providing for richer, deeper cultural, scholarly and co-curricular events.

Three primary factors were identified for investing in a student center. The first factor is enrollments, which have been increasing significantly, making it difficult to find adequate space for student activities on campus.

The second primary factor is on-campus residency. In 1997, 614 students lived on campus; this fall there will be 1,475, for a 140% increase. The Five-Year Plan projected this would be accomplished by 2004.

The third primary reason for supporting this project is the limited space available for extra curricular activities on campus, especially as related to the overall student growth and the residency growth on campus.

Dean Thompson told the Board many of SVSU's sister institutions have state-of-the-art student centers which are significant marketing attractions. They play an important part in the college choice of prospective students, who are very interested in student housing and student centers.

A student center would have numerous benefits to students, such as a commons area for students living on campus to get together between classes, share in conversation and leisure recreation, or to study in groups or individually. Space is needed for student organizations to meet, for dances and career days, as well as many other functions.

In addition to drawing new students to campus, a student center would keep resident students on campus, giving them a feeling of having a home. Research has shown that students who connect with a university – by being employed on campus, being involved in activities on campus, by

spending weekends on campus – are much more likely to graduate from that university. A student center would help create a richer, more vibrant campus life environment where students learn not only in the classroom but outside the classroom.

Stephen Hocquard, Director of Engineering Services, told the Board many universities have a student center which is the core of campus life. SVSU students have never had such a facility: they gather in Brown Concourse, the West Complex and various areas of Doan Center. But as the University becomes bigger and busier, even those facilities are not available for them at certain times.

Mr. Hocquard reviewed the student centers at Central Michigan, Ferris State, Grand Valley State, and Oakland universities. He noted that many universities are now including fitness centers in their facilities, in recognition of the change in lifestyles of today's students.

The proposed student center at SVSU is not nearly as large as many of the projects at the other universities, but would provide the essentials. It would be an addition of 31,000-32,000 square feet to the south end of the current Doan Center. The Bookstore would be moved to the end and enlarged. Half of the space from the current Bookstore would be used for recreation such as foorzeball, air hockey and pool. The south end could contain meeting rooms, computer spaces, and e-mail spaces. A multipurpose room could be used for poster sales, blood drives, and large meetings of 100-125 people. A small convenience store would be included.

This proposed facility is fairly simple and fairly conservative. The budget for the student center would be approximately \$6 million.

The fitness/recreation center would be an addition to the south side of the Ryder Center, facing R Lot, and would provide space for intramural programs and intercollegiate athletics. It would also include a 5,000 square feet open fitness area with free weight, nautilus type equipment, running machines and a running track. It would be dedicated to open student use. There would also be small office spaces for the student recreation program. It would be a fairly simple addition, with approximately 8,000 square feet, costing approximately \$2 million.

President Gilbertson stated: "Some of the comparisons to the other universities' facilities are not apples to apples because we were given a quite splendid physical education athletic facility in the Ryder Center. But it is clear to us and to our Admissions Staff that we are disadvantaged relative to our sister institutions in what we're able to offer in terms of extracurricular space and activities. We're making full use of the Ryder Center, we're making full use of nooks and crannies in the old Doan Center where we can beg, borrow and steal space at odd and unusual times. Something needs to be done. Again, it was part of our long-term plan to develop a more vital on-campus life and an on-campus residential population. The proposal we make is a fairly modest one, in terms of scale relative to some of our sister institutions, as we're a bit smaller than some of the institutions to which we have been comparing ourselves."

Mr. Muladore told the Board the total estimated cost for the student center and the fitness/recreation facility was projected at \$8 million, on which the University would borrow \$6 million as part of a second phase of the series 2001 bond issue authorized by the Board in June of this year. Twenty-five percent of both the debt service and the operating costs of these facilities

would be allocated to the auxiliary budget.

President Gilbertson noted that the rationale for allocating the costs in this manner is that the on-campus students, whose revenues comprise the auxiliary budget, would be disproportionately heavy users of any of these facilities.

Mr. Muladore added that the administration proposed to continue to build the deferred maintenance budget to a level of approximately \$800,000 by fiscal year 2006. An in-depth review of the deferred maintenance issue is underway, but it is believed that relative to our peer institutions, what SVSU is doing is similar to what those institutions are doing, relative to the size of its budget.

An increase in the General Service Fee of \$2.00 per credit hour would become effective in the winter semester. This would be dedicated to the debt service for these facilities.

Shaun Johnson, President of the Student Association, stated: "From a student's point of view, the support for this building is very, very strong. . . . This has been a concern of the Student Association for some time now. . . . Currently there is really no place for organizations or students to gather on campus. I used to give tours two years ago on campus and one of the first questions asked was where our student union or student center was located. Not having an answer to that question was awkward, to say the least. It's my personal belief that, especially at the undergraduate level, there is much student learning that takes place not only in the classroom, but also outside of the classroom, and this building would allow for those experiences to happen. Tonight we will have a House meeting and I have typed a resolution to go in front of the House to support a Student Center. I'm confident that it will pass: I've talked to pretty much every member. There's very

strong support from the students for this.”

Trustee Sims asked: “We’re looking at two different add ons. The student center per se would be at Doan Center, and the other is just a fitness center. So the answer to that question would be that our student center would be at Doan.”

President Gilbertson replied that it made sense to have the fitness piece of the project located by the Ryder Center where there already are showers and locker rooms – that there was no point in replicating those somewhere else. This facility would be dedicated to physical fitness and athletics, but would be open to student use.

The student center would be an addition to the Doan Center, utilizing its food service facilities. It would be located in the middle of the residential complex.

Trustee Vitito asked whether the University was constructing a smaller student center than it needed in order to build it on the Doan Center site.

President Gilbertson responded: “I think we are fortunate that it will accommodate that size. If we were to expand beyond that size – and in some earlier iterations of this project we did – it would require going across Fox Drive and taking that driveway out of service. So there is some room to expand this beyond this particular footprint. But right now, given that we have taken the fitness center out of the student center, there’s no need to take it beyond Fox Drive.”

Trustee Braun asked what the tentative timetable on the projects would be.

President Gilbertson replied that if the Board approved the resolution in October, it is hoped that groundbreaking on the fitness center could begin almost immediately, so that it might be

available by next fall. Ground would probably be broken on the student center next spring, with a possible one-year timetable.

Trustee Walpole noted that the student center seemed a little conservative and asked whether it would be designed so that it could be expanded as the programs continue to grow.

President Gilbertson responded that it had been downsized not just to accommodate the site, but because of the University's financial capacity at this point in time. However, the facility was specifically designed to be expanded as the need arises and as the University's financial capacity improves.

Dean Thompson noted that by connecting the physical fitness center to the Ryder Center it would be possible, as opportunities occur in the future, to add a student activities area to the south of the Ryder Center.

President Gilbertson concluded that the matter would be brought to the Board for final action in October.

6) Basic Skills Report

Dr. Robert S.P. Yien, Vice President for Academic Affairs, stated: "Basic skills on campus is referred to as a remedial program. We started revisiting the Basic Skills Program we have here about three years ago. As a result of the General Education revisions I think it's about time to really take a closer look at how we deal with remedial programs. A year and a half ago I asked Dr. David Schneider, Professor of Communication, to head up a Task Force to look into this program."

Dr. Schneider told the Board the Basic Skills Program is the University's way of helping

students who might be short in academic skills to succeed in college. The students are tested when they come to campus for the orientation process. ACT scores are used primarily for University entrance requirements, but they currently are also tested here in reading, writing and arithmetic. Writing samples are taken from students, and faculty evaluate them and use that input to indicate where the student starts in terms of English composition. Because of the growth in the size of the freshman class, it has become very cumbersome to move through that process in an expedient manner. So the Task Force is proposing doing what many institutions have done – using the ACT score in the writing portion as an indicator of where to place each student in English classes. The writing sample would not be deleted completely. The students could still choose to give a writing sample if they did not agree with their placement based on their ACT.

The students are also given a basic skills test in math as they go through orientation. Those results are used to place them on their math track. Currently students who come within two points of passing have been allowed to retake the test. The Task Force would like to expand that to four points, because research has shown that two thirds of the students who retest improve enough to place into another class.

The Task Force would like to further expand the existing policy to a seven point retake policy on the condition that the students work through a computer module review which would involve three to four weeks of remediation in the math areas where they need work.

Dr. Schneider added that technological fluency is becoming an issue at many institutions across the nation. SVSU's current policy encourages the development of fluency, but does not

require it. The Task Force proposes that students be given a paper and pencil test during orientation to help determine their ability to use basic software, the internet and the other basic tools that a student needs in a college classroom to succeed. They could then be given feedback on their level of fluency and courses could be recommended that are suited to their needs.

Dr. Yien noted that the revisions pertaining to writing and reading are about 80-90% set. The Task Force is examining whether the ACT score alone would be adequate for math placement. The technological fluency matter is still in the debating stage.

Trustee Braun stated: "I'd be curious if you do come back in a couple years and want to have computer literacy a part of Basic Skills. But it seems to me that if a student is prepared to apply himself and meet all the requirements of classes without that, it should be a personal decision, particularly since I've been reading about the theft of theses and other kinds of composition papers. It certainly is needed in the work place, and I understand that, but it does seem to me it should be a personal choice."

Professor Schneider noted that a large percentage of freshmen either don't have a major or change it before they graduate. And their needs vary: the needs of students in Accounting are much different than in Composition or Computer Science. They need to be given advice as to which classes they should take, given their current skill levels.

Trustee Braun stated: "It does seem that when students come in they are surrounded by a majority who already are computer literate. And they'll be wanting to do it on their own. And so I hope you don't have the problem a couple of years from now."

Professor Schneider replied: “No, I don’t think we will. It’s much like English 111. If you’re bright, you can test right out of it. I think we’ll always want to give students that option. The one thing we don’t want to do is assume that all our students are the same. We don’t do that in reading, and we don’t do that in math.”

- 7) Motion to Move to Informal Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations and the Student Center

BM-958 It was moved and supported that the Board move to Informal Session to discuss contract negotiations and the Student Center

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

The Board moved to Informal Session at 3:11 p.m.

- 8) Motion to Reconvene in Formal Session

BM-959 It was moved and supported that the Board reconvene in Formal Session

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

The Board reconvened in Formal Session at 3:53 p.m.

Professor Randall Hock, President of the Faculty Association, told the Board the General Education Program is in full swing. The faculty are assessing the new Program. A great deal of time has been spent on this.

Sixty evaluation teams, consisting of 180 people, need to be formed to evaluate the performance of the faculty. This also will take an incredible amount of time.

Professor Hock told the Board the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation team will be on campus in October, and that this process is extremely

important. He stated that some things had been allowed to happen that probably shouldn't have happened. Two department chairs were removed. Department chairs' roles have always been held sacred. Faculty throughout the campus are concerned. The Faculty Association has supported the accreditation because they feel it is important, but removing two department chairs right before the visit jeopardizes our chances.

President Gilbertson stated: "We appreciate Professor Hock's comments and the manner in which they were presented. . . . There is no record of our randomly removing department chairs in the past. We have respected the elections by the faculty, but the University has the right under the contract to exercise our judgment, and we believe the two individuals involved were uniquely unsuited to lead in the accreditation process.

"Ten years ago I asked for Board approval to seek accreditation for the College of Business. We can't compete with other colleges without it. There has been a significant investment in the Business College: a new building, two endowed chairs, sustained budgetary support during a period of declining enrollments. Patience is running out. We share agreement that this accreditation is extremely important for the College and the University. We support the Dean and are grateful to those faculty – some new and some veterans – who have worked hard on this goal. We appreciate the way the Faculty Association has supported us and contained our disagreements."

Trustee Sims stated that the Board appreciated the concept of accreditation for the College, and that the subject comes up every time there is a Board Retreat. She noted that change is a tough pill; when someone new comes in, some people can't accept it. The Board salutes the efforts the

Administration and the Dean have made. Change needs to take place. The College must be accredited.

Trustee Walpole added that the Board appreciated the extraordinary efforts made by the faculty with regard to General Education and in seeking accreditation for the Business College. The Board is supportive of the process, and it supports the direction of the University and the Strategic Plan. He noted that ten years is a fairly long time to work on this project, and that the Board appreciated the attempt to move it along in a timely manner.

Trustee Walpole concluded: “We appreciate Randy’s doing whatever he can to make this work.”

Trustee Kelly stated: “The Board supports the Dean and his group, and will keep Randy in its thoughts.”

IV. ADJOURNMENT

9) Motion to Adjourn

BM-960 **It was moved and supported that the meeting be adjourned.**

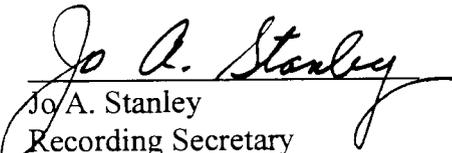
The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert J. Vitito
Chairman

D. Brian Law
Secretary



Jo A. Stanley
Recording Secretary

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
 AUXILIARY SERVICES-BONDED FACILITIES
 OPERATING BUDGET

FY02

REVENUES	
Housing Contracts	\$5,399,255
Other Operating Income	3,158,538
Summer Income	131,425
Non-program Revenues	251,000
Conference Bureau Debt Service	25,000
	8,965,218
EXPENDITURES	
Program	5,421,850
Capital/Repair & Replacement	400,000
Debt Service	2,582,000
	8,403,850
Net Income	561,368
Reserves Balance, Beginning of Year	2,944,080
Reserves Balance, End of Year	\$3,505,448

**Saginaw Valley State University
Public School Academy
2001-02 Projected Enrollment**

School/Location	September 2000 Count Day Enrollment	Projected September 2001 Count Day Enrollment
<i>Cesar Chavez Academy, Detroit</i>	760	824
<i>Chandler Park Academy, Detroit</i>	502	612
<i>Chatfield School, Lapeer</i>	266	266
<i>Creative Learning Academy, Beaverton</i>	37	55
<i>Detroit Community High School, Detroit</i>	320	334
<i>Grattan Academy, Belding</i>	89	104
<i>HEART Academy, Detroit</i>	85	127
<i>Landmark Academy, Kimball</i>	219	300
<i>Michigan Health Academy, Southgate</i>	46	56
<i>Mosaica Academy of Saginaw</i>	406	455
<i>NewLand Academy, Manistee</i>	72	0 (Closed August 31, 2001)
<i>Northwest Academy, Charlevoix</i>	74	74
<i>Oakland International Academy, Farmington Hills</i>	93	90
<i>Pontiac Academy for Excellence, Pontiac</i>	236	425
<i>Sunrise Education Center, Tawas</i>	31	26
<i>Traverse Bay Community School, Traverse City</i>	172	184
<i>White Pine Academy, Leslie</i>	137	162
<i>Winans Academy of Performing Arts, Detroit</i>	432	538
TOTALS	3,977	4,632