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University of Massachusetts at Boston

VOL. IV No. 21

February 6, 1973

Trustees Oppose Education Reorganization Proposal

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to accept the statement by Board Chairman Joseph Healey as the University of Massachusetts response to the proposed reorganization plan for higher education. Mr. Healey's statement follows:

"The Trustees of the University of Massachusetts have reviewed and discussed the report of The Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs regarding the reorganization of the educational structure of Massachusetts.

"Although we are sympathetic with the Secretary's objectives and appreciate his interest in higher education, we find this plan to be without substantial merit.

"We will request additional information from the Secretary over the next two months before the Governor submits specific legislation. We are open to discussion and genuine efforts to arrive at mutual understandings.

"We were not a party to the deliberations that produced the plan. However it seems clear that the report does not acknowledge and could well reverse the substantial progress the Commonwealth has made in educational affairs in the last ten years. Others can speak to the steady improvement in elementary and secondary schools and the promising efforts to secure equitable educational opportunity in metropolitan areas. So far as higher education is concerned, however, the Commonwealth can be proud of the remarkable growth in service and quality of the community colleges, state colleges, and the University. The Trustees are proud that the University has had a leading role in this development.

"We are not persuaded of the wisdom of combining education from kindergarten to graduate school. We believe that the cities and towns of the Commonwealth are the proper bodies to determine the nature and pace of early education, and that high school graduates should have the opportunity to enter a variety of state-wide institutions of higher learning. Forced integration of all levels of education can only benefit an impulse towards a rigid monolithic structure.

"We question the division of the state into five new parts. To interpose another political subdivision and another layer of bureaucracy for whatever purpose seems to us to make genuine participation more and not less difficult.

(continued)

Trustees Oppose Education
Reorganization Proposal
(continued)

"We speak from first-hand experience when we say that the multitude of boards, their cross-representation, their confusion of constituency, their demands of time, knowledge and energy simply will not work. The Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts meets in formal sessions ten months of the year. Its five committees meet twelve months. To expect a mass conglomeration of boards, committees, and commissions substantially to improve performance and save money is not realistic.

"We also express our great concern over the way in which the report proposes to dismember the University of Massachusetts. We have watched firsthand the development of this one-time agriculture college into one of the best public universities in the United States. We have assisted in the birth of a new urban campus and a new medical school, both of which are receiving national attention. To sort these campuses around like building blocks is to disregard the ties of history and tradition and the clear evidence of shared strength and joint progress.

"As trustees, we are open to recommendations, reforms, or reorganization. We are not open to making our educational institutions the laboratories for large-scale experimentation conducted in the name of economy and efficiency.

"There is real opportunity for state-wide vision, planning, and leadership within the general framework which already exists. It can work better without sacrificing essential strengths we have achieved."

College II Senate

The College II Senate will meet on Tuesday, February 6, at 12:15 p.m. in the Faculty Club, 4th floor of the Library. The agenda will include the election of members to the following Senate committees: Admissions and Financial Aid, College Services, Governance Review, Personnel Policy, Special (Ombudsman), and Student Grievance. The College II Student Affairs Committee will present its budget, policies, and procedures for Spring 1973 for approval by the Senate.

Last Lecture Show

The Last Lecture Show of College II will resume on Wednesday, February 14th when Prof. Jeanne Binstock of the College II Sociology Department will present "The Succor of Ritual, or Why Does Everything Have To Stay the Same?" -- comments on the time-honoured procedures of higher education, at 3 p.m. in Room 564 of the Statler. The seminar is open to members of the University community.

New Copy System

A reminder that Tom Curran in Central Duplicating has installed the new Multigraphic Total Copy System. This is the system you all read about in the last Bulletin that can copy in a fraction of the time required by any other method, reduce the size of the original and will save all many tax dollars in the bargain.

Sociology Seminars

Dr. James E. Blackwell, Chairman (Sociology), was one of a dozen social scientists invited by the Ford Foundation to participate in a Conference of Social Science Research on Blacks In American Politics. Professor Blackwell attended the Conference in New York on January 25-26.

Professors Prince Brown (Sociology, College I), Douglas Davidson (Sociology, College I and Director of Afro-American Studies), and Herman James (Sociology, College I) participated in a National Conference on the Survival of Black Youth and Children. The conference was held on January 25-28 in Washington, under the joint sponsorship of Howard University and the National Conference on Black Youth. More than 1,000 delegates from various parts of the United States attended.

Library Information

Circulation Policy - All books may be charged out for one month (but with no renewals) EXCEPT:

1. Reserve Books - These circulate for two hours only. If there is no demand for the book at the end of that time, the loan period may be extended at the discretion of the Circulation Desk staff.
2. Reference Books - They cannot be charged out for home use.
3. Periodicals, Current Issues and Back Issues - They cannot be charged out for home use.

Nominated as Distinguished Scholar

Professor Eric Robinson (History, College I), who is taking up his Guggenheim Fellowship next academic year, has been nominated by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom as a distinguished scholar under the Anglo-Soviet Cultural Agreement. He will be working in Soviet Russia on the transference of British technology to Russia, 1760-1820.

His recent book, Science and Technology in the Industrial Revolution (University of Toronto Press), written in collaboration with A. E. Musson of the University of Manchester, is now available in an Italian version. Prof. Robinson is also one of twenty-five American and British scholars financed by the National Science Foundation to discuss science and industrialization at a conference to be held at the Burndy Library, Norwalk, Conn., in March.

Professor Robinson is giving a paper on "Problems of Mechanization and Organization in the Birmingham Jewellery Trades" at the Winterthur Conference in March on "Technology in the Decorative Arts." This paper will be published in the proceedings of the conference.

The New American Scholar

Adam Yarmolinsky, Ralph Waldo Emerson University Professor, will give the inaugural lecture on "The New American Scholar" which commemorates the founding of the Chair. The lecture is open to the University community on February 7 at 3:30 p.m. in the Faculty Club.

WBUR-FM

The second in a series of UMass-Boston radio programs on WBUR-FM will be on the air this weekend:

Saturday: 8-9 p.m., Kalliope, a program of readings and discussion of poetry written by UMass-Boston faculty and students.

Sunday: 9-10 p.m., Folk Music of the British Isles with student Kate Potter, a History-English major.

Monday: 8:30-9 p.m., Louis Roberts with commentary and criticism by the Chairman of the Theatre Arts, College II.

Search Committee for a New Chancellor

Professor Thomas Brown announces that the Search Committee has invited Saul Touster, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, City College of City University of New York, to visit the campus on February 12th and 13th. Vice President Touster has his A.B., LL.B and J.D. from Harvard. He has been a Professor of Law at CCNY since 1971, and has served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs since 1971. Mr. Touster has numerous publications in Law, Law and Psychiatry, Sociology, Education, American Studies, and is the author of a book of poems: Still Lives and Other Lives, University of Missouri Press, 1966 (winner of Devins Memorial award).

All faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend the reception and informal presentation to be held on Monday, February 12th, at 4:30 p.m., in the Faculty Lounge.

Psychology Lectures

Anne Peplau of Psychology II will lecture on "Achievement Conflicts in Women" on February 8 at 3:30 p.m. in 1-615 as part of the Issues in Psychology course. Theodore X. Barber will be the guest lecturer on February 15th at the same time and location. He will speak on Hypnosis and Human Potentialities." The lectures are open to the University Community.