

Board Reaffirms Dr. McClellan Dismissal

Faculty-Administration Study Group Will Review NMU Policies, Procedures

Northern Michigan University's board of control today reaffirmed its decision to terminate Dr. Robert F. McClellan's association with the university.

At the same time, it supported interim President Ogden E. Johnson's call for establishment of a special faculty-administration study committee to review current procedures, practices and policies and to make a complete report of any known faculty concerns and seek solutions to them.

Action was taken in the presence of a capacity crowd of observers — faculty representatives, students and citizens — just before adjournment of the board's two-day October session in University Center at 10:45 a.m.

John Farley, Menominee, made the motion reaffirming the board's previous decision in the McClellan case. It was supported by Joseph Gross, Detroit, and carried unanimously. The motion read: "The board of control of Northern Michigan University has weighed all factors presented to it by faculty and administration regarding its decision to terminate the services of Dr. Robert McClellan. The board is mindful of the sincerity and intensity of convictions which have been expressed to it. It is equally aware of the need, at all times, for preserving the integrity of its administrative powers. In the best interests of all concerned, the board reaffirms its decision to terminate Dr. Robert McClellan's association with Northern Michigan University at the close of this academic year."

Meetings Called
A spokesman for the American Association of University Professors informed The Mining Journal this morning that organization has called a meeting for 7:30 tonight in the Brule-Cadillac Rooms of University Center.

Don Keskey, Escanaba senior and president of the NMU Student Government Association, said a general meeting of the student body has been called by the SGA for tonight at 7:30 in the C. B. Hedgecock Field house. He said students will be informed of what has happened in the last week and will decide on action to be taken. He said students definitely will not attend Friday afternoon classes.

The NMU Faculty Senate at a general faculty meeting at 1 p.m. Friday in the Little Theatre on the NMU campus to discuss action to be taken following announcement of the board's decision.

Indications this morning were that the meeting will be held, as scheduled.

Charges Cited
The administration charged the McClellan publicly criticized the university's four-course program, urged students to sue the university for rental rebates when they were housed in dormitories that weren't completed and interfered with the university's campus expansion program.

"I cannot admit to these charges," McClellan said.

In today's session, the board approved Johnson's recommendation that a special committee be established to improve communications and interrelationships between the board, the faculty of Northern and the university student body.

In another unanimous motion, the board acted to "accept the responsibility to the citizens of the State of Michigan as a constitutional body charged with administering the affairs of the university and providing the best educational atmosphere possible for the young men and women enrolled as a part of its student body."

It then authorized Johnson, in keeping with this interpretation of its obligations," to proceed with selection of a special committee under terms and provisions outlined by the interim president."

Johnson's Statement
Johnson made his recommendation at the opening of today's windup session of the board, issuing the following statement:

"Attainment of the goals of Northern Michigan University and the solution of its internal problems depend, in great measure, upon freer communications between all groups genuinely interested in, and concerned with, the advancement of the university. I commit this to mean faculty, administrators and student body, as well as members of the board of control.

"We must recognize in a period of dynamic growth that problems multiply with greater speed many times more than solutions present themselves. This causes a gap between the recognition of such concepts and the opportunity to give them the broad and meaningful attention a considerate and sympathetic administration would prefer.

"While the board of control is the constitutionally established body responsible for the supervision and direction of the university, it can and should delegate responsibility for advice and counsel to administration and/or faculty representatives in particular areas of concern.

It should be acknowledged by all that there is urgent need for improving communications between the board, the faculty, the university administration, and the student body.

"Because of these conclusions, I am recommending that the board authorize the appointment of a special committee to review current procedures, practices, and policies, and to make a complete study of any known faculty concerns; that the committee make a serious and sincere effort to explore all such areas of concern and all avenues of solution; that, specifically, this committee shall include nominations from the faculty senate that the membership of this committee be made by appointments of the president, and that it be empowered, at the conclusion of its deliberations, to present its mutual findings to the president; that the president review with the committee such findings, and that these conclusions be then presented to the board for its final consideration."

'Very Much Involved'
John P. McGoff, Williamson, chairman of the board of control, noted the board "has been very much involved" in



About 60 Northern Michigan University student pickets converged on the Charcoal Room in the NMU University Center Wednesday afternoon as part of a demonstration in support of the re-instatement of Dr. Robert McClellan. They chose the Charcoal Room thinking that members of the university's board of control would be there. — (Photo by Julian Ulmer.)

the McClellan case, denying charges made to the contrary.

In comments preceding board action in the case, he said the McClellan matter, by itself, is not the entire problem. "It is just a pimple on the cancer," he stated.

He stressed the fact that the board is calling for positive action by re-reading Johnson's statement on the need for better communications through creation of a special committee, and he labeled "inappropriate" charges that the board has been "a rubber stamp," has not reviewed the situation thoroughly, nor dealt in facts.

No Statement Submitted
McGoff also said McClellan had been invited to submit a written statement of his situation to the board but had not done so.

All eight members of the board were here for the two-day October session.

Observers left this morning's meeting quietly and, although security police were posted in the area to maintain peace, their services were not needed, since no demonstrations occurred. Pickets were notable by their absence.

While all was relatively quiet on campus and in University Center during this morning's meeting, the picture was quite different earlier.

Pickets chanted, sang and

tapped on the outside walls of University Center Wednesday night as, inside, Northern Michigan University Board of Control members ate a hurried dinner and then went into a closed, hour-and-a-half session on the subject of Dr. McClellan.

No statement was issued at its conclusion, when the board reconvened for a regular meeting.

Doors Barred

NMU security police, aided by city police, patrolled the south wing of University Center, where doors were barred to all but authorized personnel throughout the evening. Police kept in touch in the building and elsewhere on campus with walkie-talkies.

Student demonstrators — numbering only a dozen or so early in the evening but increasing to 50 or more as the night wore on — cried University Center in an attempt to determine in which room board members were meeting.

The pickets were permitted in the hall of the older University Center wing nearest the south wing but were kept from entering the corridor leading to rooms where the board met.

Sign-carrying students were loud but orderly, interspersing Christmas carols and patriotic selections with "We Shall Overcome" and chanting "Hey, hey,

Ogden J., how many profs have you lost today?"

The reference was to Ogden E. Johnson, interim president of the university, which has of the university and one target in the turmoil over the terminal contract issued McClellan, a professor in the history department and to resulting resignations by two faculty members and by the possibility of resignation by others.

Support By Senate, SGA

McClellan has been supported by the NMU Faculty Senate and NMU Student Government Association; his reinstatement has been demanded by those groups, and re-evaluation of his case has been urged by several others.

The issue has evolved partly

IN APPRECIATION

We take this opportunity to thank the many friends and neighbors of Mae S. Oakley for their kindness to her in her recent illness and for their expressions of sympathy to us.

Audrey Redard
and
Henry and Minnie Oakley

VISTA AND BUTLER

NOW SHOWING
EVES. AT 7 & 9

SINATRA: THE NAKED RUNNER

IN TECHNICOLOR

ISHPEMING THEATRE

TONIGHT Thru SAT. SHOWING ONCE AT 7:10

SAVAGE HELL BREAKS LOOSE!

THE RIDE TO HANGMAN'S TREE

TECHNICOLOR
SHOWING ONCE AT 8:40

VALLEY OF MYSTERY

TECHNICOLOR
A UNIVERSAL PICTURE
COLOR CARTOON

NEW CONCEPT IN STEREO SOUND

NOW A COMPLETELY ALL NEW **ZENITH** SOLID-STATE **CIRCLE OF SOUND** MODULAR STEREO

LET'S YOU HEAR FULL, RICH, NATURAL STEREO SOUND NO MATTER WHERE YOU SIT

into claims by supporters of McClellan of suppression of academic freedom, against the responsibility for "university control" voiced by Dr. Edgar L. Harden, president emeritus of Northern, whose decision to terminate McClellan's association with the university — a move upheld by the board — precipitated the controversy.

Drs. David Dickson, NMU vice president for academic affairs, and Thomas Griffith, dean of the school of arts and sciences, sat in on the executive session in the Pioneer Room after dinner Wednesday night.

Regular Agenda
No one, however, disclosed the scope or outcome of the conference, following which the board moved to the president's office for a two-hour session devoted to 1968-69 budget matters and reports on enrollment, land acquisition and construction. Several administrative and faculty members also attended that meeting.

The McClellan case, last item of business at the board's windup session this morning, was preceded by final agenda matters and a meeting of NMU board members with the university's Presidential Selection Advisory Committee at 9:30.

Pickets Active
Early Wednesday afternoon, about 60 students picketed Johnson's office, the Charcoal Room in the University Center, a dormitory dining room and Kaye Hall. The picket line moved through the Charcoal Room

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HAIR DRY 3 FRI.

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PANTS PLAIN SKIRT

NMU Action

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under the impression that members of the board of control would be there.

While outside Johnson's office, Vernon Pierce, assistant professor of speech who has said he will not return to NMU next year if McClellan is not re-instated, had a brush with campus police, who attempted to stop him from sitting down in front of the door leading to the office.

"Security police came and grabbed him, but they let him go almost immediately," said Miss Marilyn Kitscher, Marquette junior who took part in the demonstration.

'Obligation To Wait'

The decision to go to Kaye Hall, she said, was made after students picketing were reminded by an unidentified woman that the board had yet to meet and that they had an obligation to wait until the board's decision was announced and not to get involved with police.

In Kaye Hall, students sat on steps in the foyer while Pierce gave a speech from the balcony urging immediate action.

Students then returned to Johnson's office, where picketing continued throughout the afternoon and evening. The early afternoon demonstration spanned about an hour and a half.

