Board OKs 7 Profs; 6 Still Await Decision

By Rich Figel
and Lisa Burkhart

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to reverse their decisions on seven out of 13 faculty members originally denied tenure but tabled action on the remaining six after a three hour barrage of testimony and support from faculty and students that lasted until 12 am Wednesday night.

Reappointed were: Thomas E. Benediktsson of the English department; Edith Kurzwell, sociology department; Mark Lyndrop, chemistry department; and Adele B. McColm, philosophy and religion department.

Three administrative science professors were given conditional reappointment; if they receive their PhDs by the end of next semester — a qualification for tenure in that department — they will be reappointed. Those professors are Frederick D. Crowley, Larry S. Goldstein and Abraham Stein.

Still waiting are: James Boylan, anthropology department; Joseph V. Contessa, environmental, geography and urban studies; Gary Danielson, psychology department; Margaret Duggan, English department; Eva Kantor, psychology department; and Daniel Pruner, history department.

One after another, students, faculty and even outside businessmen, lined up to deliver a procession of speeches, some detailing the qualifications and merits of the professors who were denied tenure, some questioning the seemingly contradictory nature of the Board's position on "quality" education, while others argued against the procedures being imposed upon the teachers.

About 65 speakers later the Board tabled action on the faculty who had not been reappointed. The Board will probably make their final decision at their next meeting in January.

In anticipation of the large audience — altogether some 350 to 400 persons — the meeting was moved to Memorial Auditorium. As the audience waited for the meeting to start, sporadic clapping began to break out. "We're only about a half hour away," said one faculty member.

The Barrage of\[...\]
Trustees OK Seven Profs

(Cont. from p. 1) decisions. "A good college can’t make policy from year to year. They have to consider past trends and plans longer than two or three years in advance. We have to definitely decide what our institutional needs are.”

Michael Bledsoe, a senior political science major, reduced the problem to a contradiction of a “market approach versus a quality approach.” He stressed the excessive waste he has seen in the college, including construction programs and other expenses that take money away from education. Bledsoe charged the Board with the responsibility of pleading a quality case in the students’ behalf, stating, “We’ve got to place the importance of quality in our education above the consideration of figures and enrollments.”

Outside businessmen came in to inform the Board of their contacts with Boylan. Mark Schiffman, a representative of a company that prepares statements and suggestions to State and federal environmental organizations, gave strong recommendations from work he had seen Boylan submit as a consultant. “Boylan and his students prepare excellent work for us and Boylan can supervise and prepare quality material. It would be wrong for us to possibly lose him to another state system,” he said. Other students attributed their personal success to Boylan.

As the lines thinned out, Jay Livingston of the sociology department, stood in front of the Board and stared for a moment at the Trustees. “If you really haven’t come up here to discuss the good qualities of Dr. Daniel Prosser,” he stated, “I just want to know why? You are all just sitting up there listening to us and saying thank you but you aren’t telling us anything. Why?”

The crowd cheered and several spectators shouted insults at the Board. LeBoff interrupted the demonstration assuring them that the Board had made careful considerations in their decisions. “We have to look at the prospective of the future of the college. Enrollment have declined greatly in the history department,” he said. “You are demeaning this Board with your statements,” LeBoff added. “We are not cavalier and you are questioning the integrity of the Board.”

On Dec. 1, 13 professors received notice from MSC President David W.D. Dickson that their reappointment for the 1978-79 academic year would not be recommended. Irwin Gawley, Vice President for Academic Affairs, said the main reason was to restrict over-tenuring in order to maintain “flexibility” in the consideration of institutional needs.

Gawley admitted that lines were not being eliminated but shifted to programs of greater enrollment or filled by adjuncts.

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