

Minutes
of the
Special Meeting
of the
Oakland University
Board of Trustees
November 9, 1979

The meeting was called to order by President Donald O'Dowd at 4:15 p.m. in Lounge II of the Oakland Center.

Present: Chairman Lewis, Trustees Adams, Handleman, Morris and Saltzman

Absent: Trustees Headlee, Katke and Mair

Mr. O'Dowd turned the meeting over to Chairman David B. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis welcomed the members of the audience and observed that this meeting was a most important moment in the history of Oakland University. He stated that the Board of Trustees has been working diligently on the appointment of an interim president with the best interest of Oakland University in mind. Perhaps the Board has not moved as rapidly as some members of the university community would have preferred, but since Mr. Donald O'Dowd's announcement of his resignation, the Board has been aware of its responsibility to name an interim president to serve until such time as the selection process is completed for the new president of Oakland University. The original plan was to announce the interim president at the October Board meeting, but the Board needed additional time to reflect on the appointment. Mr. Lewis said that he may have made an error in judgment, but it was not the Board's intent to offend the university community in any way by holding a closed meeting in accordance with the State's Open Meetings Act to discuss the interim presidential appointment. The Board also felt it was permissible to hold the meeting at Trustee Richard Headlee's office building. He reiterated there was no intent to offend the university community. Mr. Lewis stated that the Oakland University community is most fortunate to have so many well qualified individuals to assume the responsibilities of the interim president. This fact made it difficult for the Board to reach a decision which the Trustees hoped would have the university community's approval since the decision has the wholehearted support of the Board. Mr. Lewis made the following recommendation:

As Chairman of the Oakland University Board of Trustees, I take great pleasure in recommending for Board approval the appointment of Dr. George Matthews to serve as the Interim President of Oakland University, effective immediately. I further recommend that the Board authorize Dr. Matthews to work closely with President Donald O'Dowd during the remainder of Dr. O'Dowd's time at the university and that Dr. Matthews assume full responsibility for the duties of the office upon Dr. O'Dowd's departure from the campus.

There was enthusiastic applause at Mr. Lewis' announcement.

Mr. Saltzman seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Mr. Lewis noted that the Board's attention for the next eight to ten months will be focused on the presidential selection process. Therefore it was important to appoint an executive secretary to assist the Board in discharging its responsibilities in the best interests of Oakland University. Mr. Lewis made the following recommendation:

I also take great pleasure in recommending to the Board the appointment of Mr. Laszlo Hetenyi as the Executive Secretary to the Presidential Search Committee, effective immediately.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Mr. Lewis stated that he and the Board had both today and prior to this meeting fulfilled their duty in appointing the interim president of Oakland University, and that the Board members deeply appreciated the interest shown by the university community. He said that with everyone working in the best interest of the university for a common goal, success would be achieved. Mr. Lewis turned the meeting back to Mr. O'Dowd.

Mr. O'Dowd said that this was a "fascinating" day to make the announcement of the interim president since very shortly a program honoring students, faculty and staff who have been at the university for twenty years or more would be held in this building. Mr. O'Dowd said that it had been his pleasure to work with Mr. Matthews over the years and he will enjoy

working with him for the next few weeks. He added that the university would be in "good hands" until a person was identified for the permanent position of president. Mr. O'Dowd added that Mr. Hetenyi had come to the university a few months after him and that they had both been involved in the development of the School of Education.

Mr. Morris moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Saltzman seconded the motion which was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Approved,

John De Carlo, Secretary
Board of Trustees

David B. Lewis, Chairman
Board of Trustees

Date _____