

Minutes  
of the  
Special Meeting  
of the  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees  
December 9, 1980

The meeting was called to order by Interim President George T. Matthews at 5:05 p.m. in Lounge II of the Oakland Center.

Present: Chairman Richard H. Headlee, Trustees Patricia B. Hartmann, Marvin L. Katke, David B. Lewis, Ken Morris and Arthur W. Saltzman

Absent: Trustees David Handleman and Alex C. Mair

Mr. Matthews stated that the special meeting had been called for the purpose of selecting and appointing a president for Oakland University. He, therefore, called upon Mr. David B. Lewis, Chairman of the Presidential Selection Committee.

Mr. Lewis made the following presentation:

"As Chairman of the Oakland University Presidential Selection Committee I report today, on behalf of the Committee, the conclusion of the Selection Committee portion of the process initiated on September 19, 1979 when the first nation-wide presidential selection procedure for Oakland University was announced. The function of the Presidential Selection Committee has been to:

'consider all matters in connection with selecting a president...receive suggestions as to candidates...arrange for interviews with selected candidates and make recommendations as to the appointment of a president to the Board of Trustees at the appropriate time.'

"The Selection Committee is prepared to make its recommendation as to the appointment of a president to the Board of Trustees of Oakland University; but first a reprise is in order.

"From the outset it has been our commitment to meaningfully consult all elements of the university community with respect to the selection process. In that regard the following steps were taken:

- "1. The Board of Trustees invited students, faculty, administrative-professional personnel and alumni to form advisory committees to participate with the Selection Committee in fulfilling its mandate and the Board authorized the Selection Committee to take such steps as necessary or proper to carry out its assignment; under such authority the Selection Committee authorized the creation of an advisory committee comprised of representatives of the deans of the schools and colleges of the university.
- "2. Each advisory committee was requested to submit to the Selection Committee a statement of recommended future needs of the university.
- "3. The entire university community including noninstructional staff, organized labor, community leaders and the public were invited to submit statements as to what they considered to be the future needs of the university.
- "4. From these sources a set of criteria for the selection of a president was developed and publicly distributed.

"During the selection process, as a result of its national search efforts, the Selection Committee received the names of over 280 persons as candidates for the Office of President of Oakland University.

"With the diligent assistance of its advisory committees, the Selection Committee narrowed and re-narrowed the list of candidates seeking at each step to eliminate only those candidates whose credentials did not match in a significant way the criteria established for selection of a new president.

"As the list of active candidates grew smaller, judgments respecting active and inactive status grew increasingly more difficult to make. The recommendation we make today certainly is not an exception to this aspect of the process.

"The Selection Committee has striven at each step of the selection procedure to serve the best interests of the university. Its procedures were developed in concert with its advisory committees and an effort was made to permit the procedures to evolve in a manner that would serve the best interests of the university.

"With the advice of and in consultation with the advisory committees the Selection Committee narrowed the list of candidates to three. Each candidate and spouse was introduced to a diverse group of constituents of the university. Each candidate had an opportunity to meet with each advisory committee and members of the university's executive group with whom the President works closely. One thing became clear from the opportunity of members of the university community to meet the finalists and their spouses: each is extremely well qualified and fully capable of assuming the office of President of Oakland University. Indeed, to have been able to merge each of the three finalists into one final candidate would have produced the perfect president which the criteria attempt to portray.

"In deciding which of the three finalists should be continued in active status the Selection Committee was faced with an extremely difficult task. It should be no surprise that evaluation and assessments of the Selection Committee members of the finalists differed as did preferences with respect to whom should be recommended to the Board of Trustees for appointment. From discussion and interaction regarding these somewhat differing points of view a consensus emerged. Having benefitted from each other's assessments and evaluations the Selection Committee hereby makes the single application for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

"The trials and tribulations of the selection process sometimes have been difficult to endure. Nevertheless, the work of the Selection Committee has been completed within 15 months of the date of its creation--in no way an inordinate period of time

for such a committee to conduct a national search for an institution of higher education like Oakland University.

"On the basis of the contents of the applications of candidates for the office of president of Oakland University, consultations with and assessments of the Faculty Advisory Committee, the Administrative-Professional Advisory Committee, the Deans Advisory Committee, the Alumni Advisory Committee, the Student Advisory Committee and the collective judgment of the Selection Committee I am pleased to recommend to the Board of Trustees, on behalf of the committees, the selection and appointment of Joseph E. Champagne as President of Oakland University.

"Dr. Champagne was the recipient of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from St. Mary's University in 1960, was awarded a Master of Arts in Experimental Psychology in 1962 from Fordham University and earned his Ph. D. in Industrial Psychology from Purdue University in 1966. He is currently Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Houston System, Houston, Texas, and he holds an appointment as Professor, Department of Management, College of Business Administration, University of Houston Central Campus. He and his wife, Emilie, are the parents of two daughters, Jennifer and Juliana, ages 8 and 6 respectively. We believe him to be an eminently qualified scholar and administrator and heartily recommend him and his fine family to the Board of Trustees and constituents of Oakland University."

Mr. Lewis moved that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, this special meeting has been called for the purpose of selecting and appointing a president for Oakland University, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is presently meeting at an open meeting in full compliance with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, and

WHEREAS, a civil action has heretofore been instituted by the Attorney General to challenge the validity of decisions made by the Board of Trustees in regard to the selection of a president for Oakland University alleged to have been made in violation of the Open Meetings Act, which allegations have been denied by the Board of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, this action is intended to validate any decision of the Board of Trustees which may heretofore have been made in violation of the Open Meetings Act, but without admitting any such violation, and to thereby comply with the requirements of Section 10(5) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.270(5), and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees, is hereby offering for consideration in a public meeting the application of Joseph E. Champagne for appointment as President of Oakland University, and

WHEREAS, such application discloses that Joseph E. Champagne is eminently well qualified to serve as President of Oakland University,

It is therefore resolved as follows:

1. Joseph E. Champagne is hereby selected, designated, and appointed as President of Oakland University.
2. The term of appointment shall be of indefinite duration, commencing with the date of formal inauguration and continuing at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees.
3. The Secretary of the Board of Trustees is directed to arrange for the inauguration of the President at the earliest convenient date permitted by law.

Mrs. Hartmann seconded the motion.

Mr. Matthews asked for questions and discussion and was prepared to receive them from the Trustees or the audience. There were no questions from the Trustees or the audience. Mr. Matthews then requested that the Trustees signify approval of the foregoing resolution by raising their right hands in answer to the roll call vote:

Trustee Hartmann	-	Raised Right Hand
Trustee Headlee	-	Raised Right Hand
Trustee Katke	-	Raised Right Hand
Trustee Lewis	-	Raised Right Hand
Trustee Morris	-	Raised Right Hand
Trustee Saltzman	-	Raised Right Hand

Mr. Matthews stated that all of the Trustees present voted affirmatively and the motion was approved. Mr. Joseph E. Champagne was the President designate of Oakland University.

The audience applauded the announcement.

Mr. Lewis said at this time he wished to express his and his colleagues' great appreciation for the very fine work of Mr. George T. Matthews as the Interim President. He added that the Presidential Selection Committee members would not have been able to move forward in a timely and deliberate fashion without the very fine assistance of the advisory committees. Mr. Lewis thanked the Faculty Advisory Committee chaired by David Shantz; the Deans Advisory Committee chaired by Mohammed Ghausi; the Alumni Advisory Committee chaired by Ann Arner; the Student Advisory Committee chaired by Eric Baar; and the Administrative-Professional Advisory Committee chaired by Pam Marin. He added that the advisory committees did an outstanding job of assisting in the presidential search process. Mr. Lewis gave special recognition to Mr. Laszlo Hetenyi, Executive Secretary of the Presidential Selection Committee, for his tireless efforts in moving the process along in an orderly fashion.

Mr. Lewis noted that unfortunately the Board of Trustees found themselves confronted with a good faith difference of interpretation of the Open Meetings Act. He noted that the members of the Selection Committee attempted to bring the "best" of the Oakland University tradition to their stewardship in terms of their responsibility. He felt that those who were proponents of changing some of the committee's procedures were discharging their respective responsibilities as they saw them. He stated that he wished to publicly thank Messrs. John De Carlo, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Vice President and General Counsel, and James Howlett, University Attorney, for affording the Trustees such fine legal representation when "put to the test on Open Meetings Act issues."

Mr. Lewis concluded that his colleagues on the Board of Trustees had given an outstanding commitment in time, energy and attention to the presidential selection process. Mr. Lewis added that he was as "proud today to be a member of the Board of Trustees of Oakland University as I was the day I was appointed."

Mr. Saltzman said it was only appropriate to point out that while all of the Trustees have worked diligently as members of this Selection Committee, none of them worked as long or as hard or as faithfully as David Lewis, and the members of the Board could not have come to this conclusion today without his leadership and guidance. Mr. Saltzman stated that he was personally very grateful to Mr. Lewis.

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The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Approved,

John De Carlo, Secretary  
Board of Trustees

Richard H. Headlee, Chairman  
Board of Trustees

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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