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GRAND VALLEY FORUM

Monday, December 3, 1984 Vol. 9 No. 18

Grand Valley State College

FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND ADMINISTRATORS UNITE AGAINST CSWE "ERROR"

GVSC students, faculty and officials are preparing an "aggressive appeal" against what they agree is an "incomprehensible decision" by the national Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) to deny initial accreditation to the college's Master of Social Work program.

Calling the Council's decision "a grievous error," Provost Glenn Niemeyer pointed out that it seemed to reflect a total disregard by the Council for the final report of its own official site visitation team, as well as for work done by two consultants employed by GVSC on the Council's recommendation.

"The Council offered a three-point rationale for issuing the denial, and none of the three concerns were ever mentioned by either of the consultants or in the final report of the Council's visitation team. As a matter of fact, the visitation team was specifically complimentary about the strength of our graduate curriculum. This was the official source for the Council's deliberations, and yet the Council, sitting in New York, chose curriculum as one of the three standards to declare us in 'noncompliance,'" Niemeyer said.

"In addition to this unexplainable discrepancy," said Niemeyer, "the Council's letter of denial indicates that it evidently ignores its own guidelines in reaching its decision. In written and oral communication with us over the past two years, the Council has affirmed that our candidacy was being evaluated in terms of one set of guidelines. Yet in the letter, the

Council states that its decision was based on new 1984 guidelines which had never applied to the development of our program and which had never even been distributed until three months ago.

"We are confident that our MSW program is accreditable under either the old or the new guidelines, but the Council's mysterious inconsistency on this matter is reason enough for asking for a re-evaluation."

There were two other standards on which the program was allegedly in noncompliance. In the second criticism, the Council faulted the program on the grounds that students in some of the field placements were not supervised by MSW-qualified instructors. In the third, the Council contended that requirements for admission to the program lacked specificity and documentation regarding its liberal arts element and its relatedness to graduate social work.

According to Niemeyer, "Again, it appears that Council officials did not carefully read the materials submitted to them in connection with our program. As a matter of fact, some of the members acknowledged that they had not even received the college's response to the visitation report from the Council office before their vote on our program was taken."

Social work faculty say there are numerous qualified social work professionals in the area who can attest to the irrelevance of the Council's second criticism of the program. As to the third, says Niemeyer, "In point of fact, the material that the Council had available to them gives them more 'specificity' and 'documentation' about liberal arts content than what they call for in their standards."

At a meeting on November 20, students appointed representatives from each class in the

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GVSC RECEIVES STATE FUNDS TO PLAN DOWNTOWN CENTER

The state legislature has taken another step toward meeting Grand Rapids' need for comprehensive upper-level and graduate college services downtown. The Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee of the House and Senate has awarded GVSC \$225,000 to develop architectural plans for the college's proposed Grand Rapids Downtown Center. The Grand Rapids architectural firm of Robert L. Wold Associates has been appointed to render the schematic plan. Wold's design will determine size and configuration of the facility as well as general site development, including accessibility and parking considerations. He plans to have the project completed within six months.

President Lubbers noted, "Although this funding does not mean a date for actual construction is set, it is a significant step toward realizing our goal of meeting the adult educational needs in downtown Grand Rapids."

"We're optimistic about Michigan's continuing economic

recovery and hope that once the schematic plans are approved, we will be able to obtain state funding for actual construction. That would allow us to break ground for the Downtown Center by early 1986 with a final completion date in 1988," Lubbers said.

The planned educational center, to be constructed on 4.5 acres which the college owns on the west bank of the Grand River, will contain 90,000 square feet of net usable space. The projected state contribution for the project is \$18-million. GVSC has already raised over \$2-million in private funds for the project and is planning a capital drive to raise an additional \$3-million. Some of the private money will be designated for the portion of the facility which would house Channel 35/52, GVSC's public television station.

College services and programs to be offered in the projected Downtown Center will include Grand Valley State's Office for Economic Expansion,

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program--first year, final year, and recent graduates--to work with faculty in preparing materials to be used in appealing the Council's ruling. Representing the first-year students is Marilyn Wirth-Gendrikovs; second-year student representatives are Dave Mutchler, Tobi Sisman, and Vicki Berghuis; and Craig Stevens is representing recent graduates of the MSW program.

Several students expressed concern about the possibility that the Council's action reflected "protectionism," a tendency for social work educators and members of the social work profession to try to keep their gates closed against new entrants. At the meeting the students expressed confidence in the program and their support of the college in pursuing the appeal.

The MSW program at Grand Valley State was instituted at the request of social agencies in west Michigan to meet the needs of persons already employed in social services who could continue professional development only as part-time commuter students.

The heads of several major social service agencies in west Michigan have expressed high regard for the program at Grand Valley State. In a public hearing earlier this year before the Governor's Commission on the Future of Higher education, Charles Burkholder, Executive Director of Kent County's Family Service Association, said, "Grand Valley's graduate level social work program is a public service designed to meet the unique needs of this community. The program is especially important to us."

The college established the program only after ascertaining that none of the state's other colleges were willing to provide the required programs and services at a Grand Rapids area site.

"The MSW program is a high-cost program, one which we undertook in response to the needs of this region's social agencies, students, and the publics they exist to serve," said Niemeyer. "We have a responsibility to represent both their concerns and our concerns about this accreditation issue as vigorously as necessary and to prevail upon the CSWE to reconsider what certainly seems to be, at best, a questionable decision."

Members of the CSWE staff in New York City have agreed to meet with GVSC officials in December to discuss the appeals process.

GVSC RECEIVES STATE FUNDS TO PLAN DOWNTOWN CENTER

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and academic programs in business, nursing, communication, computer science, technology and engineering, education, and other career-related programs for working adults. These details are the result of a year-long analysis of the educational needs of the downtown Grand Rapids area conducted jointly by Grand Valley State officials and education specialists in Michigan's Department of Management and Budget. In September, Governor Blanchard gave his strong endorsement to the planned facility as a vital step in the ongoing economic development of west Michigan.

Grand Rapids Mayor Gerald Helmholtz sees GVSC's proposed Downtown Center as a vital link in the continuation of the cooperative relationship between Grand Valley State and Grand Rapids Junior College. According to Helmholtz, Grand Rapids is recognized in national studies as the only Michigan city that has a strong potential growth rate during the next ten years. "It is necessary for the continued economic growth of the community that we have a public four-year college downtown to help us grow and give us the research facilities we need to continue our economic expansion," Helmholtz said.

In addition to cooperative arrangements with GRJC, Grand Valley State has developed joint technology degree programs with Ferris State College which are offered in downtown Grand Rapids. Lubbers says a major goal of the college is to continue to expand these types of arrangements with both public and private colleges through the proposed downtown facility.

In referring to the future development of the entire west

bank area, Lubbers said, "While it now appears that our plans are progressing more rapidly than plans for other facilities on the west bank, we will continue to be sensitive to the possibility of various interests joining with ours to strengthen this area as a valuable resource to the community. As an educational center, we expect to contribute significantly to the future of the downtown area as a multi-service convention center."

COMING EVENTS

Choral Groups to Offer Combined Concert

The GVSC Singers, Seven Centuries Singers, and the Festival Chorale will offer a Concert of Christmas music on Friday, December 7, at 8 p.m. in Louis Armstrong Theatre.

The program will include Daniel Pinkham's "Christmas Cantata," accompanied by a student brass ensemble. The Festival Chorale will perform the "Magnificat" by Charpentier which will feature student soloists and instrumentalists. The concert will also include a traditional "carol sing."

The choral ensembles are under the direction of Professor Ellen Pool and are accompanied by David Belcher. Admission to the concert is free.

Band Christmas Concert Slated for December 9

The GVSC Bands will present their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 9, at 3:30 p.m. in the Louis Armstrong Theatre.

Preceding the program, the GVSC Brass Quintet will play selected Christmas carols in the lobby. The Wind Ensemble, a small group of 35, will present the first portion of the concert. The opening number will be the "Spitfire Fugue," written during the 1970 Christmas season by William Wallace. The ensemble will also perform a Morton Gould arrangement of "Silent Night."

The Concert Band will complete the program with such selections as: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring;" "Prelude and

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Science Honor Society Forms Club at GVSC

Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, which is an honor society for scientists, has formed a club at GVSC. A special club installation dinner was held on November 16 in Kirkhof Center, where the guest speaker was Dr. M. Patricia Faber, Sigma Xi's national president.

Faber discussed the three goals of Sigma Xi: to advance scientific research, to encourage companionship among all scientists, and to assist in the wider understanding of science.

Membership in the prestigious 100-year-old society is extended to all dedicated scientists who contribute to the growth of knowledge. Sigma Xi has clubs and chapters around the world and boasts 120,000 active members.

Grand Valley's Sigma Xi Club includes 57 members, 20 of whom are GVSC faculty or staff members. Members from the larger community include those working in medical facilities, research laboratories, business and industry, and other colleges in the area.

P. Douglas Kindschi, Dean of the Science and Mathematics Division and President of Sigma Xi at GVSC, accepted the club charter on behalf of the scientific community. Kindschi pledged that the club would do its utmost to encourage scientific research on Grand Valley's campus as well as on other campuses and in the larger community.

WGVC Membership Drive Continues

WGVC Channel 35 continues its winter membership drive through Sunday, December 9. Following is a list of special programs to be aired this week.

Monday, December 3

7:30 p.m.: "Christmas at Pops."

9 p.m.: Luciano Pavarotti in Concert at Madison Square Garden.

Tuesday, December 4

8 p.m.: Nova. "Jaws: The True Story." A look at the great white shark through the eyes of underwater photographer Al Giddings.

9:05 p.m.: "Glenn Miller: A Moonlight Serenade."
Hosted by Van Johnson.

Wednesday, December 5

7:30 p.m.: National Geographic Special: "Save the Panda."

9 p.m.: "The Corn is Green." Stars Katherine Hepburn.

Thursday, December 6

7:30 p.m.: "The Making of Indiana Jones."

9 p.m.: Leo Buscaglia: "Living Life Fully in Love."

10:30 p.m.: "Michigan Outdoors Special."

Friday, December 7

9 p.m.: "Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music."

Saturday, December 8

2:30 p.m.: "The Best of Live From the Grand Ole Opry."

4 p.m.: "Down Home Country Music." Stars Tammy Wynette, Charley Pride, and Hoyt Axton.

7 p.m.: "The Everly Brothers Rock'n'Roll Odyssey."

9 p.m.: "Elvis." A film portrait of the life and career of Elvis Presley.

FACULTY SKETCHES

Beverly Seeley, associate professor of art, is exhibiting her metal work at City Art Gallery at 1501 Lake Drive S.E. in Grand Rapids through December 8.

Ursula Franklin, professor of French, has been informed that her article entitled "Reverberations on Heine's 'Lyrisches Intermezzo' in the Lyrics of Laforgue" has been accepted for publication in Comparative Literature.

Robert Junn, professor of political science, was a member of a panel discussing "International Law: Ever-Widening Gap between Prescription and Practice" at this year's annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Midwest, held recently at the University of Illinois at Urbana.

12 midnight: "Don't Knock the Rock." Performances by Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, and others.

Sunday, December 9

2:20 p.m.: Concert. Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians.

4:30 p.m.: National Geographic Special. "The Sharks."

7:30 p.m.: "The Nutcracker." Mikhail Baryshnikov and the American Ballet Theatre.

9:10 p.m.: "A Christmas Special with Luciano Pavarotti."

10:30 p.m.: "Christmas at Pops." John Williams, the Boston Boy Choir, and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus.

Basketball Tickets Available

Advance tickets for the men's basketball home game against Hope on Tuesday, December 4, are on sale at the Field House.

Correction

In the November 19 issue of Forum, Phi Kappa Phi fraternity was incorrectly mentioned as the sponsor of a December 1 benefit dinner dance. The fraternity sponsoring the event is Pi Kappa Phi.

COMING EVENTS

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Fugue in F Minor" by Johann Sebastian Bach; "Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson; and "Psalm 46" by John Zdechlich. Other numbers will include both traditional and contemporary Christmas music.

The concert is open to the public, but there is an admission requirement of a canned food item. This is the fifth year that the bands have collected canned food to be given to a Grand Rapids relief agency for distribution to the needy.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Monday, December 3

10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Art exhibit. Scott Brusa, sculpture. Kirkhof Center Art Gallery.

Tuesday, December 4

10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Art exhibit. Scott Brusa, sculpture. Kirkhof Center Art Gallery.
7:30 p.m.: Men's basketball. Hope College at GVSC.

Wednesday, December 5

10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Art exhibit. Scott Brusa, sculpture. Kirkhof Center Art Gallery.
7:30 p.m.: Men's basketball. GVSC at Eastern Michigan University.

Thursday, December 6

10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Art exhibit. Scott Brusa, sculpture. Kirkhof Center Art Gallery.
4-5:30 p.m.: Philosophy of Life Seminar. Ninth of ten sessions. Cove Room, Kirkhof Center.
7 p.m.: Women's basketball. GVSC at IUPUI, Fort Wayne.
8 p.m.: Hypnotist Tom DeLuca. Kirkhof Center.

Friday, December 7

10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Art exhibit. Scott Brusa, sculpture. Kirkhof Center Art Gallery.
8 p.m.: Christmas choral concert. GVSC Singers, Seven Centuries Singers, Festival Chorale. Ellen Pool, conductor. Calder Fine Arts Center.
Men's basketball. GVSC at Indiana Purdue, Ft. Wayne tournament.

Saturday, December 8

11 a.m.: Swim meet, men and women. GVSC at Grand Rapids Junior College Invitational.
Men's basketball. GVSC at Indiana Purdue, Ft. Wayne tournament.

Sunday, December 9

10:30 a.m.: Dialogue worship. Kistler Pit.
3:30 p.m.: Christmas band concert. GVSC Concert Band, William Root, conductor. Calder Fine Arts Center.
6:30 p.m.: Catholic mass. 102 Manitou.

Monday, December 10

10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Art exhibit. Paintings by Janice Ensing-Keelean. Free. Kirkhof Center Art Gallery.