McMillan's position counters ASUO plan

Student control issue in EMU reorganization

By LOIS LINDSAY
Of the Emerald

Student leaders may not be successful in gaining more student control over management of the EMU if a reorganization proposal issued last week by EMU Director Adell McMillan and staff receives administrative approval.

The proposal, part of an EMU position paper responding to an ASUO proposal to establish a student-faculty board to govern the facility, seems to run directly counter to the ASUO plan, student representatives said Friday.

"In essence it would give the students less control instead of more," explained ASUO Pres. Jim Bernau. "I'll admit I don't understand exactly where Adell's coming from, but at this point I find it a bit hard to swallow."

The four-page position paper lists an account of the role of the union, a critique of the current EMU Board structure and the ASUO's proposal for a new one and offers the EMU staff's own proposal for a revamped board — a structure strikingly dissimilar to the ASUO's proposed board. The EMU Board, as McMillan envisions it, would be a "voluntary" and "apolitical" 13-member board which would "function independently from the student government."

Bernau said he questions the viability of such a board. "I don't understand the logic of the idea of voluntarism. If the board members' responsibilities are heavy, they should be compensated for them. Voluntarism has the tendency to create a dependency on the director's staff for all the information on which to base decisions. The board needs an independent income in order to resist institutional control."

The ASUO president said the move to apoliticize the board and separate it from student government is an "interesting approach. If by political, Adell means the board structure lends itself to debate and discussion, I hardly think that's an aspect to be avoided. If the students are concerned about an aspect of the EMU management or functioning, that matter should be discussed."

Bernau said the only reason he can see for the EMU staff to want the board to function independently of the student government is that "over the past year, members of the student association have been critical of the union. We've been concerned about our pocketbooks. We've watched the mounting deficits and other managerial proglems and we've criticized them."

But the biggest problem Bernau sees is the EMU staff's proposal is the structure and responsibilities of the proposed board. Unlike the ASUO's proposal (which would establish a 13-member student-faculty board to set policy for the union, replacing the EMU director as sole policy maker for the union), McMillan's proposed board would have the responsibility for initiating, reviewing and evaluating long-range policies and planning for the EMU with the provision that "major decisions" could be made "by necessity" without prior board approval.

"Maybe it's just the way the proposal's worded, but the way it reads, it gives the board very weak powers."

The structure of McMillan's proposed board would afford the general student "very little representation" according to Bernau. Under McMillan's plan, the 13-member board would consist of five students "selected" for one-year terms (one each from the Cultural Forum, Outdoor Program, Club Sports, Craft Center and Child Care programs), the ASUO president or representative and (for two-year terms) two students elected at large, one alumni member, two faculty members, two classified EMU staff persons, and the EMU director, business manager and University program consult, as ex-officio, non-voting members.

The ASUO's proposed board would consist of five students elected at large, two IFC members, one student appointed by the ASUO president, three faculty members, one EMU classified staff member, and the EMU director as an ex-officio, non-voting member.

The important difference between the two proposed boards is the amount of real representation the general student would receive, Bernau said. "Under Adell's plan you have at least seven people with institutional interests to start with," Bernau explained.

"It's not likely that the people from the Cultural Forum and the other programs can objectively cut back their own programs to save the students' money — that is, it is unlikely they would be able to make rational student-based decisions. They wouldn't be able to avoid looking for ways to increase their own programs. Similarly, the classified staff members will be concerned with their salaries and working conditions."

A further provision of the EMU staff's proposal which would alter the incidental fee allocation process for the EMU, bypassing the Incidental Fee Committee and having the EMU Board make its budget recommendations directly to the University president, was also criticized by Bernau.

He said that such a move would run counter to guidelines of the State Board of Higher Education (which says the IFC shall decide incidental fee allocations). But he also said such a move could create a "disjointed and irrational" budgeting system.

"Once you separate one part of the student program from the other parts, there's no way of assessing it as a whole," Bernau explained. "Since the EMU is the biggest financial burden on the students of all ASUO-funded programs (the facility is allocated nearly $700,000 in incidental fees annually) we need to keep track of its operations."

Bernau insisted he is not taking any official position "for or against" the paper at this time. "I'm not at liberty to make any kind of an assessment until I know more about the paper," he said. "It's possible that there's just a misunderstanding of language. It's also possible Adell left some things out. I'm reserving final judgment until I have a chance to sit down and talk with her."

Bernau and ASUO Consultant Don Chalmers said they plan to meet with McMillan Tuesday. Until that time, "we've got to assume this position paper is serious and in good faith," Chalmers said. "But we'd like the students to give us some input on how they feel about the paper. That's why we're airing this issue — so we can see how students feel about it."

According to Chalmers and Bernau, students contacted by the ASUO so far have been "quite surprised about Adell's reaction. They seem to think it's pretty provincial — pretty shortsighted," Chalmers explained.

McMillan refused to discuss the position paper saying "the paper speaks for itself. My position is contained in the paper so there's really nothing more to say," she explained. McMillan said she had not had a chance to talk with members of the ASUO since issuing the paper and could not respond to their reactions.

Other than seeking student input and discussing with McMillan, Chalmers and Bernau said they are going to honor the negotiations process now under way between the administration and the student association. Under that process, the student leaders and the administration will have compiled responses to McMillan's position paper by April 19 and will meet then to begin actual negotiation talks.

Survey ranks Ford most influential

WASHINGTON (AP)—A survey of 1,400 distinguished Americans conducted by *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Pres. Ford the nation's most influential person.

The weekly newsmagazine said it asked a cross-section of American leaders to select the person they considered most influential in America, awarding five points for first place down to one point for fifth.

Ford collected 5,675 points to place first, followed by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger with 3,047; Federal Reserve Chairman Arthur Burns, 1,765; AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany, 1,508 and Chief Justice Warren Burger, 1,336.

Placing sixth in the listing was CBS newsman Walter Cronkite.

The survey also included a presidential poll, won by Ford with 30.9 per cent, followed by Humphrey with 16.2 per cent.

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