

Today's Forecast:
Rain
and Warmer

The Daily Collegian



FOR A BETTER PENN STATE

'Muddled'
Honor
See Page 4

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FIVE CENTS

Behind Closed Doors

Open Records Called Trustees Compromise

By LARRY JACOBSON

Second of a Series

Participants in the controversy over closed Board of Trustee meetings at the University—pro or con—have gravitated over the years into three distinct categories.

On one extreme is the group preferring to keep the meetings private, and on the other end are proponents of the open meeting. Stuck in the middle are backers of a compromise which would keep the meetings closed, but would have minutes of the meetings published.

Those who would keep the meetings closed use as the basis for their argument the legal fact that the University is a private corporation, thus its business meetings are private.

On the other hand, proponents of the open meeting follow the same reasoning as State Senator Jo Hays (D.) from State College who introduced a bill in the State Senate to open the meetings of the University Board of Trustees. The bill passed the Senate unanimously, but was buried in a House committee.

Hays told The Daily Collegian that the state pours some \$30 million into this University every two years, and parents of students also pay tuition fees. The people of the state have a right to know, he said, what goes on with their money. And they should have the right to see what goes on in meetings, he added.

Any formal motion or action, Hays added, should happen at an open meeting. "This doesn't exclude the use of executive session (closed to public and the press) when personalities are involved," he said.

What about the possibility that the meetings would merely become a rubber stamp for decisions that were reached in private hotel rooms, etc.? Hays said he felt this would occur to some extent, "but there are always a couple of dissident elements that would speak up during a meeting, bringing many things out into the open."

Then Hays concluded his argument with the idea that the University is in reality a state university, and thus an agency of the state, which could come under the newly passed open meeting and open records laws.

Fuel was added to this last part of Hays' argument Tuesday when President Eric A. Walker in a speech classified the University as separate from any state-aided institutions such as the Universities of Pittsburgh or Temple, and later in his speech, said "... that Penn State is the eastern outpost of the western state university."

The compromise groups' thinking was best expressed by two members of the University's Department of Political Science who said, "Open meetings wouldn't be any good because then all action would take place in the neighborhood bar or hotel room, and the meetings would be nothing more than a rubber stamp."

The idea of having open records but closed meetings, is the only concession the Board of Trustees would ever consider, one professor said. A colleague added that the meetings could never be opened on the basis that this is a state university.

"After all, he said, "the University employs a... lawyer who probably doesn't do anything else but keep the University riding the fence between a private corporation and a state institution. This seems to be his life work."

In addition, backers of this idea feel that the Board might grant publication of minutes, since none of the dirty wash would come into public view.

In the light of present opinions, the idea of open records is the plan with the most chance of succeeding.

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In addition, backers of this idea feel that the Board might grant publication of minutes, since none of the dirty wash would come into public view.

Cabinet also will hear a protest of University Party's second registration meeting, from Christian Hostetter, Anita Lorah and Gristje Flecking, who were

defeated for party offices at the meeting.

Other items on the Cabinet's agenda include a report of last semester's \$15,301.64 Cabinet expenditures, a report from the community living committee, an insurance committee progress report and recommendations from the Interclass Finance Board.

The report also recommends that proceeds from traffic fines,

after expenses of paying the secretary who handles the details of the parking violations system,

be divided among the social recreation fund, a fund to improve parking areas, and the scholarship fund, which now receives the total proceeds of the court.

The present traffic code, according to Owen Proctor, chairman of the Traffic Court, does not provide for dismissing a

student for traffic offenses.

The code as it now stands, provides that a student's

agreement to pay a fine for a

first offense will result in a

suspension of 60 days after the

fourth offense, and that after the fifth offense his car

will be impounded for 16 weeks.

The traffic recommendations

were drawn up by Elwood F.

Oliver, director of the department of security; Frank J.

Simes, dean of men; Robert

Steele, All-University president;

Walter H. Wiegand, physical

plant director, and Lucien

E. Bolduc, chief of the campus

patrol.

Another recommendation of the

committee asks that court costs

of \$1.50 be charged a student if

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Divisional reports will be given

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