

FROM FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

TRUSTEES LISTEN TO FSU CRITICISM

Strong testimony criticizing conditions at Fayetteville State University was heard Wednesday from alumni members, department chairmen, and administrators during three special meetings held by the board of trustees seeking a solution to the problem.

The special meetings in succession began shortly after 10:20 a.m. and lasted nearly six hours.

The most critical testimony came from four members of the National General Alumni Association, led by Nehemiah E. Parker, its president.

Parker charged that "a lack of democratic principles and inadequate communications by the faculty, administration, and the trustees have contributed to the state of unrest" at the university which he said "has shocked and embarrassed us."

He told the trustees that such a situation "causes taxpayers and donors to think twice" about contributing to Fayetteville State University."

Parker said alumni "sincerely hope the board of trustees will remove the cause or causes at our alma mater in order to pursue education in a democratic and intellectual atmosphere."

Mrs. Vivian Diggs, recording secretary of the national alumni organization, said during their investigation the group talked with faculty, students, and community leaders.

Mrs. Diggs charged that demands on the faculty were "intolerable." She said they had talked to one faculty member who has resigned because she had not been allowed to participate, received no vacation, no raises and got in trouble because of missing a meeting called during the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. Diggs also charged the faculty was "not being treated as profes-

sionals, not trusted, and not respected."

She also accused the business office of "inefficiency" and said that the university's athletic department is the most "pathetic department in the school."

Alumnus Alexander Barnes told trustees that a "bad state of ineptness on the part of the trustee board has been steadily creeping up on the institution."

"It rests upon your shoulders to furnish the necessary guidelines to insure a democratic administration," said Barnes, "that will respect the rights of faculty and students, without fear or favor."

Barnes who said his presentation was based on 50 years of loyal devotion to the school told members of the board "it must be the kind of administration that is designed to make FSU a beacon for conducive learning, devoid of personalities, petty politics and autocracy."

Trustees also met with department chairmen who told the board a great deal of confusion exists on campus. One department chairman said "somewhere along the line we have lost confidence and trust in each other."

Department heads told the trustees that a great deal of mistrust and mistruths had been created on campus. This, they said, was one of the problems to be faced and blamed the mistruths for charges of "incompetent teachers."

At their third meeting trustees met with administrators of the university to further gain information in the problems surfacing at the school.

A. D. Roscoe, business manager, said a number of changes had been made to clear up problems existing in his office.

He said a number of requests had been made through the business office to prepare "a better organizational chart for

the President." In addition, Roscoe answered several charges made by students of inadequacy in the dining hall, high prices at the canteen, an on-campus eating facility and other complaints lodged against his office.

Roscoe explained that the business department procedures are in accord with state statutes.

A committee is being set up to review prices at the canteen, said Roscoe, adding that the dining hall has agreed not to raise prices.

The Dean of Students, J.C. Jones, told trustees that students were unhappy with a limited catering service and that the service had issued coupons for three meals a day.

He said that they had checked other schools and found that the schools had coupons and a choice of foods.

"We told the students that under this system unless they budgeted well they would miss some meals," he said. After negotiations the students were notified that "we will give you the system but you must suffer the consequences."

W. R. Collins, a trustee said after the explanations "the students made a terrible indictment. Dr. Lyons, in my mind needs our support."

Dr. G. L. Butler, chairman of the trustees, said the board was deeply concerned with the existing problem.

Butler told each group that the trustees were cognizant of the fact that the university was in a state of transition from a college to a university.

He said "I know we're going to have growing pains and we can expect problems through the transitions."

"We are deeply concerned and are seeking solutions," Butler said, adding that through free and open discussion they hoped to find an amicable solution.

Fayetteville Graduate Elected Mayor of Lawnside, New Jersey

Even though this little town, located across the river from Philadelphia served as a mecca for fun lovers of nearby towns, seeking wholesome enjoyment and relief from a busy daily life and 40 hour week, one did not dream that a graduate of Fayetteville State University would head the city government and show such outstanding leadership.

Hilliard Moore, Class of '47, who journeyed to Fayetteville to complete his education so that he might better serve his native New Jersey is now at the helm of this Negro-controlled town. He takes his place among any mayor in the state, even in the nation, when it comes to running a city.

He is in there fighting for every inch that the citizens are entitled to and is always seeking to make Lawnside a better place in which to live. Lawnside is definitely a symbol of what the black man and a graduate of Fayetteville State can do, if given the suffrage with which to do it.



The Honorable Hilliard Moore
Mayor of Lawnside, N. J.

---NOW IS THE TIME---

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Assembly, and that they don't have as much control as it may seem.

Of course, they evaluate your desires and want to be able to decide whether or not they carry

enough weight to go through the General Assembly. However, it pleases me to tell you that the students take their matters straight to the General Assembly. It can be carried around the Board.

I met with the chairman of the appropriation committee that decides what we get and how much we get, the chairman of the Board of Higher Education, the chairman of the Budget Commission, the chairman of our Board of Trustees and a host of other senators and representatives. I do feel that these men are interested and concerned about FSU. It is our job as students to see that these men not only are interested and concerned but constantly changing these "timid" conditions. I believe they have been kicked to the feelings of the students here and I hope that students will not stop here, but stomp, stomp, and stomp them until these cloudy skies no longer hang low over FSU!

FROM FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

According to an article, "FSU Board rescinds Firing of Dr. Bishop," which appeared in your paper March 9, the board of trustees of FSU has rescinded its action firing Dr. D. W. Bishop and has placed him on a status of suspension with full pay.

Most likely, the question foremost in the minds of the general public is: How reliable is the board of trustees of FSU? The article stated further that the trustees took this action after their attorney advised them of technical irregularities in the discharge of Dr. Bishop.

The overall administration of this state supported school is entrusted to the trustees. This is indisputably a herculean task. Nevertheless, those who are interested in education, and the welfare of both the faculty and students, feel they are justified in thinking that the trustees possess wisdom, integrity and sound judgment.

Certainly one would think that this group would be thoroughly familiar with the procedures and policies of this school, in-

cluding those which govern employing and dismissing instructors.

Does rescinding the board's action one month after the "moving finger" has written compensate for the harm that has been done to Dr. Bishop?

Quoted from the article, "the regulations also provide for at least 20 days notice of a formal hearing," Nance said. It is common knowledge that this kind of policy is applicable to almost any type of employment.

The remaining question is how reliable is the board's assertion that "immediate harm is threatened to the orderly academic processes of FSU if he (Dr. Bishop) is permitted to continue his work and activity on the campus."

Can the public anticipate that one month later the trustees will acknowledge publicly that their attorney has advised them that there are "technical irregularities in their reasoning and that this assertion lacks a basis?"

Name withheld Upon Request