

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF CONTROL
MARCH 26, 1992
REGULAR MEETING
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MINUTES

BOARD OF CONTROL

Regular Meeting

9:30 a.m.

Board of Control Room - Wickes Hall

March 26, 1992

Present:

Braun
Clark
Curtiss
Gilbertson
Hornsby
Roberts
Ward

Absent:

Revilla
Rush

Others

Present:

G. Carrington
G. Corser
J. Fallon
B. Fisher
W. Healy
J. Krawczyk
C. Lange
J. Lyddon
J. Muladore
K. Nowaczyk
R. Payne
F. Porterfield
R. Ruffin
J. Stanley
R. Thompson
J. Woodcock
R. Yien
Press (3)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ward called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with Trustees Braun, Curtiss, Hornsby and Roberts in attendance. He noted that a quorum was present.

II. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

A. Approval of Agenda and Additions and Deletions to Agenda

Chairperson Ward asked that an Executive Session be added to the agenda for the purpose of discussing a possible real estate transaction. There being no objections, the addition to the agenda was ordered.

B. Approval of Minutes of February 10, 1992 Regular Monthly Meeting

It was moved and supported that the minutes of the February 10, 1992 regular monthly meeting be approved.

The minutes were unanimously APPROVED as written.

C. Recognition of the Official Representative of the Faculty Association

Chairperson Ward recognized George Corser, President of the Faculty Association, who read the following statement:

A Time for Testing Our Values

During the last few days of February, I attended the Annual Conference of the National Council for Higher Education. The theme was "Workload and Productivity: New Definitions and Increasing Demands." I left that conference with a sense of re-confirmation and re-dedication that teachers are committed to their students' learning. Their work is more of a calling to a profession, which is essential to civilization, rather than a chance to maximize short-term gain.

There is good news and bad news about publicly supported higher education in our country. The good news is that Michigan is just a bit better off than the large majority of other states. The bad news is that these other states are in serious difficulty with their ability to adequately support public higher

education. Quality, standards, programs, professors, even institutional missions are in jeopardy. In California, the teachers' pension fund has been raided to the tune of well over one billion dollars which went into the general fund. In New England there is serious talk of "privatizing" publicly supported colleges and universities. What is saved by cutting programs and professors? Even if all teaching faculty were cut at schools like SVSU, the most that could be "saved" is one third of the annual budget.

The Declaration of Independence avows that individuals, not organizations, have certain inalienable rights, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Publicly supported education has evolved as a cornerstone for these rights. The world recognizes the value of higher education in this country by decades of immigration of many thousands of people who come here for it.

How does our nation in general and SVSU in particular manage to maintain or even improve, quality and standards in times of scarce resources? However we manage day by day exigencies, we must be guided by the values and purposes of our fundamental mission. Carl Shurz, an immigrant who became a U.S. Senator, put it this way: "Ideals are like stars, you will not succeed in touching them with your hands. But like a seafaring man on the desert of waters, using them as your guide, you will reach your destiny."

It appears that the common operating model for higher education is guided by the structure of the large corporation. Using this model one might consider students as assembly line products and teachers as assembly line workers with "piecework," such as student credit hours, as a primary criterion for productivity. Both students and faculty deserve a more appropriate model for guidance and achievement.

Let us, as members of a growing university guided by its stars of ideals, dedicate ourselves to finding the most appropriate model for our mission.

Historic achievements like the Great Wall, pyramids, gothic cathedrals, Brooklyn Bridge, space shuttle, and the U.S. system of higher education were motivated by shared values of a society, not short-term unit costs.

D. Communications and Requests to Appear Before the Board

There were no communications or requests to appear before the Board.

III. ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Resolution to Approve Loan Agreement for the Financing of an Addition to

and Renovations of the Administrative Services Building, for the Issuance of a Note and for Other Related Matters

RES-985 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, The Board of Control of Saginaw Valley State University (the "Board") is a constitutional body corporate established pursuant to Article VIII, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, as amended, with general supervision of Saginaw Valley State University (the "University") and the control and direction of all expenditures of the University's funds; and

WHEREAS, the Board has previously approved the construction of an addition to and renovation of the Administrative Services Building and associated site improvements (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined it is necessary and appropriate to borrow funds and to issue a note of the Board (the "Note") for the purpose of providing funds to pay all or part of the costs of the Project, including capitalized interest, if any, and other capital costs incidental to the Project and to pay costs incidental to the issuance of the Note, in aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,200,000, which Note shall be secured by a first lien on and pledge of general tuition and matriculation fees and such special fees as may be specified in the hereinafter described Loan Agreement ("Student Fees") charged and collected from students attending the University, on a parity basis with the lien thereon securing outstanding student fee indebtedness of the Board; and

WHEREAS, First of America Bank - Mid Michigan, N.A. (the "Bank") has offered to make a loan to the Board for the Project in accordance with the terms of their commitment letter dated February 6, 1992, as amended (the "Commitment Letter"); and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to authorize the President and Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs, or either of them, to accept the Commitment Letter and to negotiate terms and execute a loan agreement and the Note with the Bank with respect to the loan, all within the limitations specified hereby;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF CONTROL OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Board hereby determines that, subject to the limitations set forth in this Resolution, it is necessary and appropriate and in the best interest of the University to borrow from the Bank the sum not to exceed \$1,200,000 and enter into a Term Loan Agreement (the "Agreement") with the Bank for the purpose of financing the capital costs of the Project, and to pay the costs incidental thereto and to the execution and delivery of the Agreement and the Note, including capitalized interest, if any, for the period to be determined by the officer executing the Agreement. The Note shall be repayable in installments, in the years 1993 through 1997, and shall bear interest at the rate of 4.65% per annum, subject to adjustment in the event of change in tax status.

2. The indebtedness of the Board under the Agreement shall be evidenced by the Note and shall be the limited obligation of the Board, secured only by a first lien on Student Fees on a parity with the Board's outstanding student fee indebtedness. There shall be no

recourse under any obligation, covenant or agreement contained in the Agreement of the Note against the State of Michigan, the Board, or the University, it being expressly understood and agreed that the Note is to be secured by and payable only from the sources of funds referred to above.

3. The President or the Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs, or either of them, shall accept the Commitment Letter and negotiate, execute and deliver on behalf of and as the duly authorized act of the Board, the Agreement and Note in the forms as the officer executing shall deem necessary and appropriate, subject to the limitations set forth above, in order to achieve the purposes expressed in this resolution.

4. The Note shall be issued and delivered upon the direction of the Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs. The corporate seal of the University may be imprinted or impressed on the Note as specified in the Agreement.

5. The President, the Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs and any other appropriate officers of the Board or the University are hereby authorized to perform all acts and deeds and to execute and deliver all instruments and documents for and on behalf of the Board required by this resolution or the Agreement, or proper in connection with the issuance and delivery of the Note.

6. The Board makes the following declarations for the purpose of complying with the reimbursement rules of Treas. Reg. § 1.103-18 pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended:

(a) The Board reasonably expects to reimburse itself for any expenditures made on the Project prior to the issuance of the Note with proceeds of the Note.

(b) This declaration of official intent is specifically made pursuant to Treas. Reg. § 1.103-18.

(c) The expenditures to be reimbursed will be paid from the Plant Fund of the University.

(d) This declaration of official intent is consistent with the Board's budgetary and financial circumstances, since no funds from sources other than the borrowing described herein are or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside by the Board pursuant to the Board's budget or financial policies with respect to the expenditures to be reimbursed.

(e) The expenditures described in (a) above are "capital expenditures" as defined in Treas. Reg. § 1.150-1(h), which are any costs of a type which are properly chargeable to a capital account (or would be so chargeable with a proper election) under general Federal income tax principles (as determined at the time the expenditure is paid).

(f) No proceeds of the Note paid to the Board in reimbursement pursuant to this resolution will be used in a manner described in Treas. Reg. § 1.103-18(k) with respect to abusive uses of such proceeds.

7. The Board hereby designates the Note as a "qualified tax exempt obligation" for purposes of deduction of interest expense by financial institutions. The Board reasonably anticipates that the amount of tax-exempt obligations (other than private activity bonds) which will be issued by the Board during the calendar year 1992 will not exceed \$10,000,000.

8. The resolution of the Board adopted December 13, 1991, approving the Project is hereby amended to provide that the costs of the Project shall not exceed \$1,300,000.
9. All resolutions or parts of resolutions or other proceedings of the Board in conflict herewith be and the same are repealed insofar as such conflict exists.

President Gilbertson told the Board that Resolutions 985 and 986 are part of the process necessary to borrow the money to complete the transaction to construct the addition to the Administrative Services Building, which is now being used by CIESIN as their temporary Headquarters.

Mr. Jerry Woodcock, Vice President for Business and Administrative Affairs, told the Board that the ideal way to construct a building is to have it completely designed before it is put out for bids. That was not possible with this particular facility. He stated: "Early on it was estimated that we could construct the facility for \$1 million. As the design was developed to fulfill CIESIN's needs, it was determined that the cost would go up to \$1.3 million. Consequently this resolution changes the maximum that we can expend from \$1 million to \$1.3 million."

Mr. Woodcock noted that the Board had previously passed a resolution which would allow the borrowing of up to \$1 million to construct the facility. The resolution currently being considered would increase the authorization to borrow up to \$1.2 million. He stated: "There is a contingency in the project and we do not want to borrow more than the cost of the project, because we do not want to get into an arbitrage situation (which would happen if the cost comes in less than the amount borrowed). CIESIN is agreeable to adjusting the lease payment so that the entire cost of the \$1.3 million would be repaid to SVSU over the three-year lease period. They will be taking that to their Board just as we are taking this

before our Board at this point in time."

Chairperson Ward stated: "I feel the key provision is that the lease is going to be adjusted so that the cash flow of the lease will fully debt service the borrowing. SVSU will not be out of pocket for any of the debt service."

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

2) Resolution to Authorize the Issuance of Declarations of Intent to Reimburse the Board for Project Expenditures from the Proceeds of Bonds

RES-986 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the Board of Control of Saginaw Valley State University (the "Board") is a constitutional body corporate established pursuant to Article VIII, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, as amended, with general supervision of Saginaw Valley State University (the "University") and the control and direction of all expenditures from the University's funds; and

WHEREAS, the United States Treasury has issued regulations, codified as Treas. Reg. §1.103-18 (the "Regulations") requiring the prior declaration of an issuer's intent to reimburse itself from debt proceeds for expenditures paid prior to the issuance of the debt obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Regulations specifically permit a bond issuer to delegate to a person the power to issue declarations of intent to reimburse the issuer from debt proceeds for expenditures made by the issuer prior to the issuance of the debt; and

WHEREAS, in order to maximize the efficient use of University funds it is necessary to authorize the Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs to issue declarations of intent to reimburse, in accordance with the Regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF CONTROL OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY, that the Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs is hereby delegated the power, and duly authorized, to issue for and on behalf of the Board, declarations of intent to reimburse the Board from the proceeds of the future debt of the Board for expenditures paid prior to the issuance of the debt for any projects of the Board, all in accordance with the Regulations. Such declarations shall comply with all requirements of the Regulations, including, but not limited to, requirements with respect to public inspection of the declarations.

Mr. Woodcock stated: "Resolution 986 deals with future projects. This concern was taken care of in the resolution that you just passed for this particular project. Both of these

come from our Bonding Counsel, Miller Canfield. There has been a change in U.S. Treasury regulations. In the past if we expended moneys on a project for which the Board later authorized us to sell bonds, we could reimburse ourself for the moneys that we had already put into that project from the sale of the bonding proceeds. Now, under U.S. Treasury regulations, the Board has to approve the project in advance. This can be accomplished by the University's authorizing me to make a statement that we might ultimately issue bonds and expect to pay ourself back for moneys that we are spending on a particular project."

In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Woodcock stated: "This Board has already authorized us to remodel part of the Cardinal Gymnasium to rent to outside parties. We are in negotiations with those parties, and if we start that work and then ultimately want to bond to pay ourself back, we need to have this resolution passed....We might start that in a very short period of time....This is a standing resolution, but it does not allow us to borrow any money without coming back to the Board. We also cannot enter any construction at a limit beyond which the Board has authorized us to do....Currently we have to come back to you for any projects of \$50,000 or more....This resolution does not change any existing control on the administration."

Chairperson Ward added that Resolution 986 is a standing resolution that allows the University to reimburse itself for advances made. The reimbursement would come from future bond borrowings.

President Gilbertson noted that this resolution had been recommended by the University's Bonding Counsel.

Chairperson Ward asked for further comments or questions. There were none.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

3) Resolution to Commend Dr. David E. Nelson for His Service as Dean of the College of Education

RES-987 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, Dr. David E. Nelson has served with distinction for the past six years as Dean of the College of Education at Saginaw Valley State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nelson is leaving SVSU to become Dean of the College of Education at Rhode Island College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nelson's outstanding leadership at SVSU has culminated in the College of Education receiving a favorable review in 1991 from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE); and

WHEREAS, During his tenure the College of Education was restructured into three teaching departments, culminating in the revision of the undergraduate program. New graduate programs were added in Special Education and Educational Leadership;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the Board of Control of Saginaw Valley State University express appreciation and gratitude to Dr. David E. Nelson and extend best wishes to him in his future endeavors.

President Gilbertson stated: "The ethic of a good farmer is to leave the land better than he found it. That's probably not a bad way to assess the value of leadership -- to leave your organization better than you found it. There's certainly no doubt that under David Nelson's leadership the College of Education has come a long distance toward achieving some of its most important goals. He organized a major curricular revision, and an overhaul which culminated in accreditation by NCATE was accomplished under his leadership. There is certainly no doubt that David Nelson is leaving the College of Education better than he found it. He served us very well. This proposed resolution is an acknowledgement of our appreciation."

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

4) Resolution to Appoint Nominating Committee for May Board Elections

RES-988 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, The Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control bylaws stipulate that a Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Board to recommend candidates for each office; and

WHEREAS, The Committee should consider the ability, the availability and individual interest of members when selecting members to be nominated for an office; and

WHEREAS, Nominations may be from the Nominating Committee or from the floor;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Ruth Braun and Terry Clark serve on the Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control Nominating Committee.

Chairman Ward asked for questions or comments. There were none.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

5) Resolution to Approve the Modification of the General Fund Operating Budget for FY 1991-92

RES-989 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS The Board of Control on November 11, 1991 modified the general fund operating budget for fiscal year 1991-92, and

WHEREAS, Subsequent to that date the University administration has revised its revenue and expenditure estimates to reflect changes to various revenue categories and expenditure allocations required for compensation, services, supplies, and equipment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the attached schedule indicating a recommended revised base budget be adopted for fiscal year 1991-92. (See Appendix One: Budget.)

President Gilbertson stated: "We adopt a budget, usually in the summer months, based on our best sense of what the state appropriation will be and on our best sense of what our enrollments are likely to be during the year. Obviously, we're never going to get that exactly right, so we came back again in November, at which point we had a sense of what our state appropriation was and we knew what our fall enrollments were. We modified the budget at that time. We come to you now with another picture of what our state

appropriation is (and we hope will remain), and now we have a clear understanding of what our winter semester enrollments are. The changes that you see represented on the attachment to the resolution suggest that the state appropriation will be written down by \$40,000, which represents the Governor's vetoes. Tuition and fees are up by approximately \$100,000, which represents stronger than anticipated winter semester enrollments....Also, for a variety of reasons, miscellaneous income is now projected to be higher by a fairly small amount. This attachment represents the budget picture at this point in time. We will come back to you at the end of the fiscal year for the final modifications and reconciliation of the budget."

In response to questions from the Board, President Gilbertson stated: "We have some good assurance from the Executive Branch that they will not try to tamper with appropriations for education this year, and I think we ought to rely on that. But we also have to be aware that these are perilous times and the State has difficulties it's going to have to deal with. There's very little we can do at this point in our fiscal year -- we're three quarters of the way through it. While the budget document shows growth in our tuition income, you must remember that those are new students who need to be served. They carry with them expenses which usually come in excess of the tuition they pay. So I wouldn't want to suggest that because we've written up the tuition income that somehow we now have a ton of money. We have expenses with those new students as well. These are very difficult times. They are difficult to predict. We are trying simply to remain alert as to what's going on, but not overreact at this point to what are simply rumors. We are encouraged by the assurance of the apparent initiative on the part of the state to resolve its budget situation

earlier, both in terms of the current fiscal year and the coming fiscal year."

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

(Trustee Clark joined the meeting at this time.)

IV. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

6) Preliminary Discussion of University Goals and Objectives for 1992-93

President Gilbertson stated that the Board of Control Bylaws reserve to the Board the responsibility of adopting an annual statement of goals. The administration is currently working on a new statement of goals for the coming year, which will probably be brought before the Board at its May meeting. That statement of goals will then serve as guidance on the development of the budget which will probably be coming before the Board in June.

Chairperson Ward welcomed Ms. Donna Roberts, SVSU's newly appointed Board member. He stated: "Our new Board member is no stranger to SVSU. She has been a loyal member of the Board of Fellows for many years. She is a lawyer with Dow Chemical, and is Secretary to that corporation. We are delighted with Governor Engler's wisdom in naming her to our Board of Control." (See Appendix Two: Appointment)

7) Report on Senate Budget Hearings

President Gilbertson thanked Trustees Curtiss and Ward for accompanying the SVSU contingent to the State Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education Appropriations Hearings earlier this month. This subcommittee is chaired by Senator John Schwarz, who is a strong supporter of higher education. At these Hearings, Senator Schwarz asked for the universities' support of his proposed initiative to increase the tax on cigarette and tobacco products. President Gilbertson stated: "We tried to express very strong support for his

initiative, because he wants to earmark that money for higher education. It would permit us some hope of providing some appropriation increase in the coming year. This is of particular importance to this institution, given our enrollment growth....I felt that the Senators expressed strong support for higher education in general, and I think they have an appreciation for our institution and what we are doing for this region and beyond. I came away from the Hearing with a pretty good feeling. We certainly now are undertaking every effort to support Senator Schwarz's initiative, and I think we should be very deeply appreciative for the courage he showed in using the "T" word -- even though it's a "vice" tax, it's still a tax. And I'd like to express our appreciation to him."

8) Staff Member of the Month

Brian Fisher, Staff Member of the Month for February, was presented to the Board.

(See Appendix Three: Fisher.)

Bill Healy, Staff Member of the Month for March, was presented to the Board. (See Appendix Four: Healy.)

V. REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

President Gilbertson stated that registration for Summer semester has begun. Enrollment is currently about 7% above a year ago. Admissions applications for Fall semester continue to come in at a rate considerably above last year. This will impose some very difficult enrollment management decisions.

President Gilbertson described the various activities that were held on campus in the past few weeks, including Science Day, and the Valley Festival of Fine Arts, which brought almost 4,000 people to campus. He stated: "A weekend ago I was walking through the

Ryder Center and it occurred to me that what was happening there that day was just exactly what those folks must have hoped for when they were designing the Ryder Center. A high school state championship swimming meet was being held in the pool; the NCAA Division II National Track Championships were being held in O'Neill Arena; an incredibly busy, colorful array of activities were going on. That building has become what everyone hoped it would be. I wish the people who were involved in the early planning of the Ryder Center could have been there and seen every dream they could have had for the place come true."

VI. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9) Board Motion to Move to Executive Session to Discuss Possible Real Estate Transaction

BM-807 It was moved and supported that the Board move to Executive Session to discuss a possible real estate transaction.

The Board moved to Executive Session at 10:15 a.m.

10) Board Motion to Reconvene in Public Session

BM-808 It was moved and supported that the Board reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in open session at 12:08 p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

11) Board Motion to Adjourn

BM-809 It was moved and supported that the meeting be adjourned.

Chairperson Ward adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

BOARD OF CONTROL
Regular Meeting

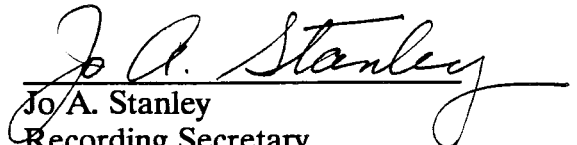
March 26, 1992

1992-26

Respectfully Submitted:

George E. Ward
Chairperson

Gerald Hornsby
Secretary



Jo A. Stanley
Recording Secretary

**SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL FUND BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 1991-92**

	Board Approved Revised Base (11/11/91)	Revised Base (1/92)
RESOURCES:		
State Appropriation	\$16,983,490	\$16,942,533
Tuition and Fees	11,224,000	11,325,000
Miscellaneous	855,000	923,313
Total Resources	29,062,490	29,190,846
EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS:		
Compensation	21,670,262	21,704,827
Supplies, Materials & Services	6,874,348	6,953,139
Capital Expenditures	517,880	532,880
Total Expenditures	29,062,490	29,190,846
Resources Over/(Under) Expenditures	\$0	\$0



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

February 21, 1992

Dr. Eric M. Gilbertson, President
Saginaw Valley State University
University Center, Michigan 48710

Dear Dr. Gilbertson:

Please be advised of the following appointment to office, subject to the advice and consent of the Michigan Senate:

Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control

Ms. Donna J. Roberts, 6210 Siebert Street, Midland, Michigan 48640, county of Midland, as a member, succeeding Nancy Edmunds of Birmingham, who has resigned, for a term expiring July 21, 1997.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Engler".

John Engler
Governor

JE/jm/appts.

cc: Department of Management & Budget
Department of Civil Service
Auditor General



STAFF MEMBER

OF THE MONTH

Brian A. Fisher

Assistant
Controller,
Office of
the Controller

February
1992

"Respect," "confidence" and "leadership" are words that come to mind when colleagues describe Brian Fisher.

Since he joined SVSU as coordinator of student financial accounting services in 1984, Fisher has quietly assumed an increasing level of responsibility. His thorough and dedicated approach to the detailed tasks required in accounting for University financial transactions have earned respect and promotions.

A native of the Saginaw area, Fisher holds an M.B.A. from SVSU and completed a bachelor's degree in accounting at Central Michigan University.

"I graduated from CMU in 1982 when the job market was really tight," he smiles. "You had to distance yourself from everybody else just to get through the interview process."

Fisher recalls spending a summer in Texas, only to find a dearth of accounting positions there. He came back to Michigan and landed a management training position with First National Bank and Trust in Big Rapids.

When his parents noticed a classified listing in SVSU's accounting office, Fisher

applied in hopes of finding a position closer to his fiancée's (now wife) home.

Fisher notes that the Controller's Office then was housed in the '66 Building, and work had not yet begun on IF 2. "I wondered why the parking lots were so far away from the buildings," he laughs. "But ever since that point in time, it has been one (building) project after another."

Fisher's promotions include assignments as staff accountant, financial analyst and his present position as assistant controller.

Since SVSU is a not-for-profit organization, the focus of accounting is somewhat different than business accounting. "Expenditures are based on a budget plan which drives spending decisions," Fisher explains. "We monitor fiscal operations of the University, focusing primarily on the budget."

Many operations fall into an annual cycle. Examples include budget projections and preparation of information for the appropriations request document, the yearly audit, and cost analysis for setting tuition, fees and room and board rates.

Then there's the annual cost study, which Fisher admits is not his favorite task. But the willingness of other staff members to assist during peak work periods helps the office meet its deadlines, he says.

Fisher notes that a goal of the office is provide service to the campus community. He cites examples such as payroll deductions, automatic deposit of paychecks, the installation of a campus ATM and the loan program available to personnel for the purchase of computers as examples. "We want to offer the highest level of service that we can," he says.

Away from the office, Fisher's life centers on his family, which includes daughter Justine, three years old, and son Austin, who is four months. "I enjoy spending time with them," he says.





STAFF MEMBER

OF THE MONTH

William L. Healy

**Director,
Scholarships
& Student
Financial Aid**

March 1992

Ask Bill Healy what he's excited about these days, and he's likely to put his office's new CASHE system at the top of the list. SVSU won free use of this aid-search software when Melissa Ruterbusch's business card was drawn at a recent financial aid conference she and Healy attended.

"CASHE will perform a computer search for scholarships and financial aid based on an individual student's profile," he explains. "It will tell the student where to apply."

Healy plans to offer the service to interested students in eastern Michigan for a \$15 processing fee. He sees this as a positive alternative to services offered by some private firms for fees ranging from \$50 to \$900. Sometimes all the student receives for this fee is basic information that could be gotten free.

"We do not want to censor, but to protect students from those who would exploit. This will be a really positive thing for our community," Healy says.

Directing financial aid activities requires great flexibility, Healy notes. Federal guidelines change frequently, and the Higher Education Act of 1965 is reauthorized every election year. "As we look at 1993-94, all the

laws relative to financial aid are going to be rewritten. We will have to start over. Something as basic as what is an independent or dependent student will change."

The extension of unemployment benefits creates an example of the impact rules changes can have. To generate savings to help pay for additional benefits, Congress changed rules applying to the Guaranteed Student Loan program: "Now students over 21 years of age must pass a credit check," Healy explains.

The intent was to lower default rates on student loans. "In reality it discriminates against unemployed people over 21, or those who have had a family catastrophe that has damaged their credit rating. The requirement is particularly a problem here because we have so many older students and because unemployment is high."

Fortunately, Healy says, 1992-93 will be a relatively stable year. That will give his staff an opportunity to convert records to SVSU's new management information system.

Healy has a reputation for being sensitive to students' needs. He says his awareness of student concerns has been heightened by his wife and son, both of whom are SVSU students. His son will graduate this April, while his wife will complete degree requirements next year.

Healy credits use of the Single File form, which doesn't require a fee, with the upsurge in traffic in his office. "During 1990-91, applications rose 38 percent. This year they are up another 23 percent."

About half of all SVSU students receive some form of aid. The number rises to nearly two-thirds if you include student loans, Healy says. As costs rise, SVSU has increased institutionally-supported aid and has added scholarships to assist groups with particularly high financial needs. Examples are the Minority/At Risk and the Non-Traditional scholarships.

