

the Interior

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February 21, 1989

PRESIDENT RYDER DELIVERS HIS LAST 'STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY' ADDRESS

Dr. Jack M. Ryder delivered the final "State of the University" message of his tenure on Friday, Feb. 17. He was presented by Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert S. P. Yien, who noted that Ryder's presidency encompassed 60 percent of SVSU's history.

The audience of faculty, staff and students rose to welcome Ryder, and accorded him a standing ovation at the conclusion of his presentation.

"I come before you today with equal measures of pride and sadness, and concern and optimism," Ryder began.

He said the pride he feels "is grounded in the University's remarkable progress during its first quarter-century of service to the people of the Saginaw Valley and the State of Michigan." He reminded listeners that many in the room knew firsthand of the adversity that had been overcome to achieve this development.

"Today we are better for having experienced what we did and I am very proud of my association with you and the special institution we have shared in building."

His source of sadness, Ryder said, is his impending retirement as president.

"While in many ways I am quite pleased with my contributions here, I will miss the excitement and difficulty of the continuing challenge. One cannot, I am learning, simply walk away from his life's work without some sadness."

Ryder explained that his feelings of concern emanate not from University Center, but from Lansing. "Specifically, it concerns me that the State could be pursuing a course grounded in short-term political considerations rather than long-term

educational and economic goals."

His optimism, Ryder stated, comes from an analysis of material, trends, state and regional facts, figures and, "most importantly, institutional performance. Saginaw Valley State University is a good institution getting better increasingly and, in the eyes of the citizens of the Saginaw Valley, a vital regional resource."

The balance of Ryder's remarks focused on several major considerations he identified, including the relationship between the State and the University.



That relationship remains critical, he said. "Fully two thirds of our operating funds come from State appropriations," he pointed out. "Without a healthy State-University relationship, our continuing quest for quality and excellence would be severely jeopardized."

Commenting on Governor James Blanchard's budget proposal for fiscal year 1989-90, Ryder noted the recommendation for SVSU was \$14,973,000 "or 7.5 percent over our 1988-89 total. More specifically, this amount included an increase of 3 percent for general operations and 4.5 percent for program revision requests."

The latter category, he said, was limited to only a portion of requested facility start-up funding, and included nothing for hiring additional faculty or adding computing equipment.

While Ryder considers the recommendation to include building start-up money as a positive step, he expressed concern about the level of support SVSU would receive under the Governor's plan.

"The recommended increase for general operations was less than half of our request of 7.9 percent. With contracts in place which far exceed this recommendation, and inflationary costs which outpace it as well, a serious review of our resource allocation and expenditures pattern will be undertaken."

Ryder said the recommendation for facility opening funds also "falls far short of our needs." A total of \$1,639,099 was requested for the final phase start-up of Wickes Hall, Arbury Fine Arts Center and the Health and Physical Education Center, he said. "The Governor's budget recommends

\$629,000 for these requests, or less than 40 percent of the total request.

"Obviously, some difficult decisions will be required in the days ahead if this appropriations scenario prevails. Suffice it to say that our dreams and aspirations related to these buildings may not be fully realized this year."

Ryder said he intends to "forcefully make the case of increased operational funds, full funding of building openings, and additional support for faculty and computing needs" as the appropriations process proceeds through hearings and legislative proposals to its conclusion during the summer.

"The economic future of our region and State will be my major rationale. Convincing the State that higher education appropriations represent an investment in the future will be my goal."

Ryder lauded area legislators for their support of higher education generally and SVSU specifically.

"Without the legislators we have had over the years, SVSU would not be what it is today."

Turning to challenges SVSU will face, Ryder presented a list of "successes yet to be achieved."

The first, he said, is a series of specialized accreditations. He updated the audience on efforts by the College of Science, Engineering and Technology to secure ABET accreditation, citing its importance to students. "In terms of a timetable, a three-person team from ABET will visit the campus in the fall of 1990. This activity will be preceded by the submission of several detailed and com-

prehensive documents."

He said accreditation would increase both the quality and quantity of engineering students and enhance SVSU's reputation.

The College of Education also is pursuing specialized accreditation of teacher education programs. "National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education standards parallel the standards set by the State of Michigan, so that our efforts, when complete, will result in formal recognition both by the State and NCATE."

The process includes submission of a precondition document (currently being prepared) to which NCATE will respond. A second extensive document requiring commentary in five major categories follows.

Finally, Ryder said, The College of Business and Management presently is looking into the issue of accreditation from the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business.

Another major challenge, Ryder said, involves buildings. "Unless there is a supplemental appropriation during this session of the legislature, this facility (H&PEC) will not open for full utilization until the fall. Further, unless the legislature acts to appropriate more building opening funds than the Governor recommended, it is certain that the center will be operated at only minimal capacity. I fully intend to work on this specific issue."

Ryder said he anticipated the Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee to approve planning funds for a campus cogeneration power plant and heating and cooling distribution system "within the

next week." The building has been in the planning stages since the mid-70s, he said.

In addition, activities related to the proposed Business Innovation and Professional Development Center continue to progress, he reported. "At this point the facility program statement has been approved by the Michigan Department of Management and Budget, and a campus-based committee chaired by Dr. Crystal Lange has been appointed to identify the best qualified architectural firms and make recommendations to me by early March.

"It is my expectation that planning funds for this building will be approved during the spring and an architect will begin work soon thereafter."

A third challenge, Ryder said, is the continuous assessment, reassessment and improvement of the effectiveness of the academic enterprise. "Even though we have made significant strides in the recent past, we must never abandon our concern for the effectiveness and efficiency dimensions of the learning process."

Ryder then challenged listeners to focus on changing the public's opinion of higher education in Michigan. "Like never before in our history, the very future of our society hinges on the success of the academy."

He said public opinion today places a high priority on issues related to crime, drugs and special services. Elected officials respond to public opinion and set spending priorities accordingly, he said.

"We all must take it upon ourselves to speak out in

support of higher education and work to dispel inaccurate perceptions, myths and frivolous, unsubstantiated criticism of our work. ... We should never hesitate to point out that nothing less than the survival of the society, in the face of an increasingly competitive world, is at stake."

Ryder said the challenges he outlines "will require major time commitments, planning, strategic thinking and concern for both economy and value."

He concluded the address by looking toward SVSU's future. Looking ahead, he said, requires imagination, disciplined thinking and optimism. "I offer the following views to encourage your own individual visioning and to raise some issues for your consideration."

He said the SVSU of the future would emphasize value for the student, the region and the State. "It will also stress the importance of inter-institutional collaboration and partnerships with various public, private and independent sector organizations within the region."

Ryder predicted that SVSU will continue to meet the higher education needs of the 14 county region of East Central Michigan. Programs and services will continue to be geared toward both full- and part-time commuters as well as residential students.

Instruction will remain the primary mission of the institution. SVSU will seek to produce graduates who are technically prepared, but who also are civically, culturally, scientifically, socially and technologically literate.

Diversity within the stu-

dent, faculty, administrative and other employees sectors will continue to be encouraged and additional enhancement of academic quality will be sought. Development of leadership skills also will be important. Technology will be used to enhance the academic enterprise. International awareness and experiences will occupy an important role.

The SVSU of the future will provide leadership and support for regional public school districts and economic development initiatives, Ryder said. SVSU will establish an ethic of entrepre-

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neurship "both in the manner in which the University operates and in its basic lessons to students."

Finally, SVSU will maintain its successful and cooperative relationship with Delta College.

Ryder concluded by thanking the campus community for support given over the years. "Both Lila and I have enjoyed our experience here and look forward to the future. It is my sincere hope that the next few years of my association with the institution will be as exciting, rewarding and productive as the first fourteen."

NEWSLETTERS LAUNCHED

Two new newsletters have made their appearance on campus in recent weeks. Both are aimed at creating awareness of healthy lifestyles.

"Eaters' Almanac" is distributed by SVSU Health Services. It features information on nutrition and heart health. Included are recipes and practical tips on selecting nutritious foods.

"Health Concepts" deals with a broad range of health issues. The letter is a class activity developed by faculty and students in Nursing 324: Health Concepts, taught by Anita Harrand, RN, MS. The editorial staff will consider for publication articles by students who have majors other than nursing. For more information, contact Harrand at ext. 5612.

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

-- A **poetry reading** is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 22 in the Faculty Lounge, third floor Science Building.

-- Feb. 22 is **Career Exploration Day**.

-- **Alex Cole**, comedian, will entertain at 8 p.m., Feb. 23 in the Theatre. Admission is free to students; \$2 for faculty and staff.

-- The Progressive Student Association will sponsor an **open meeting and film** about minority life at 4 p.m., Feb. 23 in room 158 Pioneer Hall. The event is part of Black History month observances.

-- A **dinner** on Feb. 27 will conclude the celebration activities. Featuring a guest speaker and winners of an essay contest, the dinner begins at 5 p.m. in Lower Level Doan.

ACROSS CAMPUS

-- The campus community extends sympathy to Cecilia and David Jerome on the death of Cecilia's brother, John Simons. Those who desire may contribute to the "Jay Simons Trust Fund" on behalf of his children.

-- Condolences also are extended to Joe and Sue Vogl on the loss of infant twins, a son and daughter.

ELECTION COMMISSION SEEKS MEMBERS

The election commission needs a new slate of members prior to conducting Student Government elections. Diane Brimmer, director of campus activities and orientation, requests that faculty inform students of the availability of these positions. Applications may be obtained in the Campus Activities office until Feb. 27.

Students with questions may call the election commission at ext. 4447 or 4170.

HIGH FIVE

-- The **men's basketball** team dropped a pair on their trip north last week, losing in overtime 72-68 to Michigan Tech on Thurs. and 72-65 to NMU on Sat.

-- The **women's basketball** team pulled off an 86-83 upset over Michigan Tech on Thurs. but were defeated by NMU's women 80-71 on Sat.

-- Janette Elwell was named "Female Athlete of the Meet" in the GLIAC **indoor track** meet Sat. She set a GLIAC record in the 400-meter run with a :57.24 time. The women's team placed third.

-- SVSU's **men's indoor track** team took second at the meet. David Sturm set a GLIAC and SVSU record with a pole vault effort of 15' 8". Rich Canole won the 35-pound weight toss with 51' 9". Other winning efforts by SVSU tracksters included the 1,600 relay, 3,000, 1,500 and 1,000 meter events and the high jump.



SVSU President Jack M. Ryder addresses campus audience with his annual 'State of the University' message Fri., Feb. 17.