

Engineering School Proposed at Binghamton

By David Kalish
Binghamton Pipe Dream

Binghamton - Everyone seems to love the idea. Academic Affairs Vice-President George Stein feels "it will enrich this campus and this community." Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chairman Sol Raboy is "favorable towards the proposal." In an editorial The Binghamton Evening Press felt that "SUNY has a better idea." And the \$31,000 report that sparked all the discussion concludes that "the potential benefits are far greater [than] the costs."

The mystery item is nothing less than a school of engineering for the State University of New York at Binghamton.

Last week the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems released a report recommending the establishment of such a school, tagged with a capital cost of \$8.1 million.

The center, a non-profit educational consulting group based in Boulder, Colorado, was invited by SUNY Binghamton to do a study that would assess the educational needs of high-technology industries in the surrounding community. In recent years these industries have been pressuring the administration to provide the kind of curriculum that would lead to engineering degrees, so they can meet their needs for professional manpower.

The \$31,000 study was financed by contributions from 16 local companies, a move that Stein termed "a test" to see how serious the industries were in wanting a program here.

"Not one penny of state or university money went into [the study]," he stated.

The 92 page study reveals a greener hue of the money spectrum than observers might perceive at first.

According to the report, there are more than 25 businesses in the Binghamton area which are classified as "high technology," employing more than 33,000 people. All told, these industries have a monetary impact of "one billion dollars" or more.

However, the report points out that they are being economically inhibited. "When major employers in the Binghamton area recruit nationally for new engineering employees, they say that they are at some disadvantage in competing with the 'sun belt' areas..."

Several reasons for the disadvantage are given: the harsh winter climate here, the remote cultural location which detracts from the type of lifestyle "preferred by many young professionals," and the lack of "glamor" in the older industrial facilities, as compared to "some of the new high-technology centers." As a result, industries must rely heavily on local recruits. But the existing programs at SUNY Binghamton and Broome Community College are insufficient to produce the employee pool that is called for, and the study recommends that SUNY establish a school of engineering to remedy the situation.

Specifically, the proposal calls for concentrated programs in electrical, mechanical and industrial engineering, for juniors, seniors and graduate students, at a projected annual cost of \$2.3 million. The school, which would take five years to reach full capacity, would enroll 900 students and employ 39 additional faculty members. The capital cost - \$8.1 million - assumes 1982-83 prices, but this figure could very well be "more modest" according to Stein.

"It is too early to know whether we will require capital construction of this mag-



SUNY Binghamton is enthusiastic about its proposal for an Engineering College. But do they anticipate the overcrowding problems that Stony Brook faces?

niude," he said.

According to the report, industry does not "envison the need for a large-scale research center at SUNY Binghamton in high technology fields." Instead, it believes that there should be traditional engineering programs with heavy emphasis on the application of engineering principles.

This proposal, like all others which the report offers, is subject to the approval of the Faculty Senate, SUNY Central, the Board of Trustees and the State Education Department.

On Friday, the executive committee of the Faculty Senate will convene to determine how to go about presenting the matter before the rest of the Senate. Deliberations will follow on the proposal's feasibility, to what extent it should be modified, if at all, and how to imple-

ment it.

The proposal would then go to SUNY Chancellor Clifton R. Wharton.

Once in Albany, the school must hurdle the problem of financing. About \$80-million worth of other proposed projects must fit into a \$500 million limit on spending, and the engineering school is not in the system's master plan.

Stein emphasized that the prospective monetary investment for a new school does not signify any change of priority for Binghamton.

"If we were to go ahead with an engineering program after getting all the appropriate approvals...we would do so only if additional support is provided," said Stein.

"In other words this would be an addition, not a program that would be carried forward at the expense of existing programs and priorities."

Marquette U Rejects Rightist Student Group

Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Flaunting what is supposed to be a nationwide shift to rightist opinion on campus, the Marquette University student government has refused to recognize a new, conservative student group that wants to be an anti-communist propaganda group at that college.

The rejection means the group cannot get any student funding until a new vote.

The Associated Students of Marquette University (ASMU) officially refused to recognize the group called Speak Out because it doesn't elect its officers democratically, however, some ASMU members

admit the rejection was largely the result of antipathy toward the group's political stance. The group itself contends political attitudes should not be weighed in deciding whether to fund a group or not.

Speak Out's constitution promises "to promote awareness of, respect for and adherence to the Roman Catholic teaching prescribed by the Magisterium of the Church, and to foster understanding of the danger of Marxist or Communist ideas, which are intrinsically opposed to religion and political liberty."

"It's the responsibility of student government to look at the purpose of an organization," Gunderson said. "Does it invade the rights of others? What if an organi-

zation wanted to blow up the student library?" Gunderson admitted that Speak Out doesn't fit into that "dangerous" category.

ASMU Judicial Administrator Jeanette Lucey agreed that the decision was political in nature. "Some senators raised objections, saying they didn't think Speak Out had the right to criticize Marx's theories."

"The group doesn't go against any of the university's standards," Lucey insisted, "so they should have been allowed on campus. It just wasn't fair at all. There are other controversial organizations on campus."

Referenda Voided, Fairhall Wins; Freshmen to Run-Off

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Senate yesterday, who felt that "the voting students were unjustly deprived of their right to have all views

expressed regarding the issues involved," because of a lack of proper notification, in Hutchinson's words. Students would not have the chance to effectively mount an opposition, he said, and the chances of a referendum passing are therefore great.

Kornfeld, in a letter to the Judiciary

stating his complaint, wrote that "the lack of adequate notification of these referenda deprived students of their opportunity to hear both sides of the issue, and made intelligent voting virtually impossible.

"An informed electorate is essential if democracy is to function properly and to flourish. The Student Polity Association failed in its obligation, legal and moral, to inform the undergraduate student body of these referenda, effectively abridging students' democratic rights."

He added that "the process is wrong...my personal view of whether I'm for or against [the referenda] doesn't matter."

Polity President Jim Fuccio, who argued against

invalidating the referenda, said, "I felt that adequate notice was given."

NYPIRG Project Coordinator Jim Leotta questioned the Judiciary's decision, saying that "...the Judiciary and the Election Board both voted to invalidate the referendum, even though it could only hurt NYPIRG...They said that in order to protect NYPIRG...they invalidated the referendum—over NYPIRG's protests."

Deja Vu

Nullifying a part of an election is not a new occurrence at Stony Brook: last year, because of allegations that poll-watchers were encouraging voters to choose a particular candidate, the election of a treasurer and freshman representative were invalidated. A new election was not held until February because of scheduling complications, and both Fairhall and Freshman Representative David Gamberg, who has since become sophomore representative, did not take office until then.

1982-83 Polity Senate

G Quad	Kelly
Jean Partridge, Ammann	David Smith, Kelly B
Loretta Capuano, Gray	Olivia Gallo, Kelly D
Hawkeye Aylward, O'Neill	David Burnett, Kelly E
Laurie Freidberg, Irving	
H Quad	Commuters
Pat Drollinger, Benedict	Gilbert Ripp
Suzanne Garbacz, Langmuir	Thomas Kanyock
Tabler	Candice Prusiewicz
Douglas Nuccio, Douglass	Mike Kornfeld
Matthew Aboulefia, Dreiser	Geoffrey Lennon
Wendy Stephenson, Hand	Babak Movahedi
Roth	Daniel Creedon
Gerald Dorvil, Mount	S. Dominic Seraphin
Stage XII	(No write-ins for commuter
Dawn Dubois, Stage XII A	senator received more than 10
Robert Sauchelli, Stage XII B	votes necessary for election.)