

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
of the
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
June 3, 1977

Room 109 Anthony Hall

MSU-IRAN FILM PROJECT

MSU-Iran Film
Project

Present: Trustees Carrigan, Bruff, Krolikowski, Martin, Radcliffe, Smydra, Stack, and Stevens.

President Wharton called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and announced the following rules of procedure for the meeting:

1. There must be careful regard for the right of free speech on the part of everyone.
2. Advocates of terminating the project will have one hour to present their viewpoint.
3. Advocates of continuing the project will have one hour to present their viewpoint.
4. Each side then will have fifteen minutes for rebuttal.

Ten spokespersons presented arguments for terminating the project on the general thesis that its continuation constitutes University support of a government which oppresses the human rights of the Iranian people.

Nine spokespersons for continuation of the project argued the general thesis that its termination by the Board would constitute an abridgement of academic freedom and an improper invasion of responsibilities which the Board has delegated to the academic governance system.

Rebuttal arguments generally reiterated points made in the initial presentations.

Following the rebuttal arguments, Trustee Stevens moved that the Board comply with the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, emphasizing the provision that the Board "...looks to the faculty for recommendations...on the development of new academic programs and modifications or discontinuance of old."

The motion did not receive a second.


After discussion, Trustee Smydra moved that Michigan State University sever all relations and/or any kind of connection with the Iranian film project and, in respect for his rights as a private citizen, donate all work to date to Professor Issari to do with as he sees fit.

The motion did not receive a second.

After further discussion, Trustee Bruff moved, supported by Trustee Stack, that the Board take no action on this matter. Motion passed 5 - 3 with Trustees Bruff, Carrigan, Krolikowski, Stack, and Stevens voting Yes; Trustees Martin, Radcliffe, and Smydra voting No.

Adjourned.


President


Secretary