

DQU REBEL TAKEOVER GROUP AT DQU NOW BEING PICKETED

In an ironic, but almost predictable, twist of fate, the rebel group which was given control of D-Q University by Judge Dave Rosenberg of the Yolo County Superior Court just a few months ago is now being picketed by Native Americans who were themselves supporters of the rebels. It would appear that none of the former “legal” or “official” board members or their supporters are involved in the picketing.

When Judge Rosenberg gave control of DQU to a board of his choosing, the stage was set for the rebel takeover since a majority of Rosenberg’s board were known to be part of the rebel faction. In fact, three of the four board members designated by Rosenberg had been actively involved in the rebellion against the “official” board chaired by David Risling, Jr., long-time leader of DQU and a prominent senior leader among American Indians statewide and nationally.

In fairness, it must be said that the judge may have thought that he was going back to an arbitrary date in January, 2005, to find a board membership which did not suffer from any procedural flaws. But, in fact, the “official” board that then was overthrown by the Judge, suffered from fewer flaws and possessed a majority of

credentialed educators. The Judge's reconstructed board included a mother and daughter team, both of whom had joined the rebels and had thereby severed their ties with the official (Risling) board. Moreover, one of their terms is said to have been up at the end of 2004 in any case.

A case can be made, then, that the Rosenberg board had no more legal validity than the "official" board that he ousted abruptly. In any event, the Rosenberg board moved very quickly to install two of the rebel leaders as "student representatives" even though neither was a student at the time, one having graduated and the other being a non-student occupier of DQU property by virtue of the shutdown of the academic program in early 2005. This gave the rebel faction a 5 to 1 majority, and very soon the one pro-"official" board member resigned since he was powerless. The one remaining academic member of the Rosenberg board, a pro-rebel who had previously resigned and gone over to the rebels, also soon resigned.

Today it is said by the picketers (or one of their spokespersons) that the DQU board is comprised mostly of relatives of the chair, Norma Knight, with her daughter as vice-chair. I cannot verify this, but it does seem clear that many board members stem from the Round Valley Reservation of Norma Knight and none seem to be persons associated with higher education or who are known in educational circles.

In any event, the Rosenberg board moved to appoint long-time Yolo county activist Arturo Apodaca as interim president. Apodaca,

a graduate of the University of California, Davis, formerly served on the Chicano half of the DQU board in the 1970s during a period when the board had a North American Native American section and a Chicano/South American Native section. He left the board in the latter 1970s after what I understand was an attempted takeover of the board that did not succeed. Thereafter, the board was entirely comprised of Native Americans. As far as I know Apodaca had little or nothing to do with DQU for many years, thereafter. He was, however, suddenly available to help the student rebels, when outsiders came in to hold unauthorized meetings and events on the DQU campus.

In any case, it is ironic that the rebels are now the establishment and that their Rosenberg-created board has apparently spent all or most of DQU's remaining funds and is unable to satisfy prospective students needs. (December 2005). (Jack D. Forbes)