6. **Mennonite Board of Education** (see written report in docket)
   - Orville Yoder commented on his reflections of the good that EMU has done for the church as a whole and affirmed his continued prayer support.
   - Orv reported on the work of the general boards meeting in Canada from which he just returned. The biggest development is a timetable for integration and clarification on how the church organization and boards in the US and Canada can continue uninterrupted while the superstructure is getting into place. He affirmed a new spirit of possibility that the [new] denomination will be strong in its witness and work in the world.
   - Orv called attention to the paragraph in his written report on MBE Priorities and the Gideon Project. Work groups will be organized around the six points as outlined. The Education Integration Committee wishes to have a time for significant conversation with the trustees and associate trustees for their input in the next four to five months on the plans for an education agency in the new denomination. (Perhaps at the March Board meeting.) He affirmed that the joint meetings with MBE and the GS Higher Education Council are going very well with good communication.

7. **Report of the Student Government Association Co-Presidents**
   Fikir Tilahun and Grant Rosenberger reported on the following issues with which the SGA has taken leadership roles this semester:
   - Student initiated SGA Need-Based Scholarship Endowment Fund. Ten thousand dollars has been raised as of November 1998. The trustees were highly complimentary of this initiative.
   - The shared diversity data and voiced their concern regarding diversity on campus as it relates to faculty, staff and student numbers.
   - Homosexuality, which has become quite a topic of conversation. SGA sponsored a forum on how to discuss this issue. The forum turned out very well. Currently there are small group discussions taking place.
   - Restorative Justice – initiative taking place which asks for more student involvement in the discipline process rather than the use of a "peer judiciary board" which they feel is not a constructive way to deal with disciplinary problems. EMU teaches restorative justice but its implementation at EMU seems limited.

8. **President's Updating**
   President Lapp extended his personal welcome to the Trustees and Associate Trustees.
   He showed two symbols of the pressing issues we deal with at EMU: enlarged framed "Mission Statement" and the architect's rendering of the University Commons. The people of EMU (trustees, associate trustees, faculty, staff and students) are the infrastructure managing the fit of all these components in carrying out our mission. EMU works hard on laying a foundation [with Menno Simons] as expressed in I Corinthians 3:11 and hopes this comes through to our constituency.

   President Lapp enumerated recent events which we have experienced in our community as we live and struggle with life and death issues.
   - Deaths of family members and friends
   - Walking with family members and friends who have life threatening illnesses
   - Resignations of Cabinet members (Daryl Peifer as vice president of advancement; George R. Brunk III as vice president and dean of the seminary and graduate counseling program)
   - Loss and breach of trust in the Dr. Robert Showalter case
   - Resignation of Linwood Vrolijk, field hockey coach, as a result of inappropriate behavior

   The Board Meeting is an important occasion for Trustees and staff to reaffirm the vision for EMU and is an opportunity for the staff to receive counsel and encouragement from the trustees.