MOREHEAD STATE Chooses New President

MOREHEAD -- A day of changes unfolded at Morehead State University yesterday as the school's governing body chose a new president and a new chairman of the board of regents.

In a unanimous vote, the 10-member board of regents elected Herb F. Reinhard Jr., president of Slippery Rock State College in western Pennsylvania, to succeed Morris C. Norfleet.

When he takes office July 1, Reinhard will become the ninth president in the school's 62-year history. Under a two-year contract, he is to receive an annual salary of $73,500.

Also with unanimous approval, the board selected vice chairman Mike Duncan, an Inez banker, to replace Jackson banker Jerry F. Howell as chairman.

Howell, who has served on the board for 16 years, surprised most of the members when he announced that his resignation was taking effect immediately.

"I told the governor (Martha Layne Collins) yesterday that I wanted to stay on long enough to get a new president elected and leave the board united. I can do that now," he said.

Reinhard, 53, was chosen president over one other finalist, William F. Dorrill, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Ohio University in Athens.

Both men had visited the Morehead campus earlier this week but Reinhard made the best impression on the university's faculty, Howell said.

Reinhard was not at yesterday's board meeting, but he talked to school officials and reporters from his Pennsylvania home via a telephone-speaker hookup.

"The only goal that I would have at this point is to give Morehead State University most every ounce of my energy and whatever talents and skills the good Lord has given me, and to try to take what's there and continue to build on it to make it the best regional university possible," he said.
A native of Covington, Reinhard has been president of Slippery Rock State since July 1, 1979. Previously he had been assistant to the president of Florida A&M University, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Tennessee, vice president for student development at Western Carolina University and dean of student services at Florida State University.

Reinhard has a doctorate in higher education from Indiana University and master's and bachelor's degrees in psychology from Florida State.

He was one of seven finalists for the presidency at Murray State University last year.

During the telephone news conference yesterday, Reinhard said the Morehead State board had not given him any specific directive to follow.

"They just told me to do the best job possible," he said.

Reinhard said he first wants to become familiar with the people of Morehead and determine the school's strengths and weaknesses.

His reasons for seeking the Morehead post, he said, were his and his wife's wish "to return to the South" and his desire to work at a liberal-arts institution instead of a school that concentrates on research.

During his tenure at Slippery Rock, Reinhard said, his greatest critics were an anonymous staff member who faulted him for the school's salary schedule and a student government president who "wanted to operate separately and distinctly from the administration."

Howell told Reinhard that Governor Collins wanted to talk with him as soon as possible and that the school, which has an enrollment of about 6,100, is planning a public reception for him, his wife, Nancy, and their four children.

"I'm deeply honored," Reinhard said. "I'm looking forward to working with Morehead State University and the community."

The board's nominating committee reviewed nearly 200 applications for the presidential post after Norfleet announced last November that he would voluntarily relinquish the job he has held since 1977 and assume the new position of chancellor of corporate relations.

"To choose a new president was a very difficult decision," board member Duncan said. "We finally got it down to two candidates and I believe Dr. Reinhard was chosen over Dr. Dorrill because of his breadth of experience."

After naming the new president, the board granted Norfleet a one-year sabbatical, with his salary yet to be determined, and accepted Howell's resignation.
Howell later said he never discussed with Governor Collins the possibility of her reappointing him to another board term. His term had expired April 11.

Howell noted that terms for several other board members either have expired or soon will expire.

"This was just a personal decision for me," he said. "The time had come for me to leave."

The board also approved a $37.8 million operating budget yesterday for the new fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The budget, a $1.4 million increase over last year's, calls for a 7 percent jump in tuition rates, a $40-per-semester increase in residence hall rates and a 2 percent salary increase for faculty and staff.

Under the new tuition rates, an undergraduate resident would pay $445 for fall and spring semesters. A nonresident undergraduate would be charged $1,275.

"It's a very tight budget situation, but it's a budget we can live with," Norfleet said.

The board also approved expanding the school's nursing program from two years to four years.

Caption: PHOTO

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