

## REINHARD'S MOREHEAD CONTRACT NOT EXTENDED



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The Morehead State University board of regents refused last night to vote on an extension of the contract of President Herb F. Reinhard, setting the stage for his departure after his current contract expires next June 30.

The regents made no public comment during the meeting on their refusal to vote on extending the two-year contract, amid angry cries from students that the board was avoiding a public vote.

The decision became apparent when the board reconvened after a two-hour closed session in which it discussed renewing the president's contract.

In the reconvened public meeting, which was moved to a larger auditorium because of the crowd, board chairman Robert M. Duncan asked for a motion from the board but received no response.

"At least vote on it!" a student cried out.

Reinhard said in an interview that Duncan had called him into the closed session and informed him that his contract would not be renewed.

Reinhard said he assumed the board's decision was final, but he declined to comment further.

However, he told the board during the public meeting that he thought the regents should have taken a vote as a courtesy to him and so the public would know how individual board members voted. Board chairman Duncan left immediately after the meeting and could not be reached for comment.

James Richardson of Owingsville, the board's vice chairman, said no vote was taken in the closed session. He said that "maybe the chairman thought he didn't have the votes" for an extension.

Richardson said he would have voted against an extension because Reinhard does not enjoy the support of a majority of the faculty.

"I want some peace here," Richardson said.

He said the news media had failed to talk to faculty members who had not been discharged or demoted since Reinhard's arrival at Morehead to find out "what their notion is" about his presidency.

Faculty regent John Duncan declined to comment.

Regent Walter Carr of Morehead, when asked why the board decided not to vote on the contract, said, "Oh, just to keep down the turmoil, I guess."

The new student regent, Margaret Holt of Hardin County, was jeered by students as she left the meeting.

"There are some things that happened in executive session that I could not tell you about," she said.

In interviews after the meeting, it remained unclear why the board did not move for a public vote on Reinhard's contract.

Regent Forrest Skaggs of Lynch said the board had agreed that details of the closed session would not be discussed and if any regent did discuss them, that regent should resign.

"And I agree with that wholeheartedly," he said.

Skaggs, however, said that he would have voted to extend Reinhard's contract if a vote had been taken. But he said that "it was not in the best interest of the university for me to make that motion" calling for a vote.

He declined to elaborate.

Regent Harry LaViers Jr. of Irvine declined to comment on whether he would have voted to extend the president's contract.

But he indicated that the board's decision was final.

"I think this is going to mean a new president," he said. "When you don't get renominated, that means you don't run."

He was asked if the board might decide to extend Reinhard's contract at a future meeting.

"I do not think that," he said. "The issue has occurred. It's over."

Nine of the 10 board members attended last night's meeting. Regent Eunice Caston of Winchester was absent.

"I just didn't make it," she said late last night when she was reached for comment. Asked where she had been, she replied, "Oh, just around and about." She declined to comment further.

The board's refusal to vote on the contract touched off a vehement reaction among faculty and students at the meeting.

Several got up and stalked out of the auditorium when it became apparent that the board would neither vote nor discuss its decision not to vote.

"We don't need a new president. We need a new board of regents," said Evelyn Stewart of Morehead, a university employee, as she left the building.

William Eldridge, a student from Morehead, criticized the board for a "lack of courage."

"They're cowards," he said as he left the auditorium.

Several students stood and shouted at the board, questioning its refusal to vote. Board members did not respond to the outbursts and continued with other items on the agenda.

During the reconvened public meeting, Reinhard acknowledged that the board's decision "does not come as a surprise."

When he told the board he thought it should take a public vote, most of the students in the audience of about 300 people rose, clapping their hands and shouting, "Go! Go! Go!"

Lamenting the board's decision not to vote, Reinhard said, "Under the circumstances, I have to apologize to you as students of Morehead State University."

After the meeting, about 100 students remained outside the building and cheered Reinhard and his wife as they departed.

Reinhard paused briefly to thank the students but offered no further comments and walked to the president's home a short distance away.

Reinhard was to have met last night at this home with several top university administrators to discuss the board's decision.

Richard Baxter, the executive assistant to Reinhard, said the president was not expected to comment further publicly until a time he deemed "appropriate." Baxter said that could mean several days.

About 200 Morehead students chanting "We want Herb!" staged a rally in Doran University Center minutes before the board began its meeting. Later, the students jammed into the board meeting room where they

greeted Reinhard with a standing ovation and a repeat of the chant.

Buddy Logan of Ashland, a Morehead graduate student, said he supported Reinhard because "morale has increased. He cares a lot more about the students. He's very visible on campus. He cleaned out the cobwebs that had been here."

Mark Callihan, a junior from Russell, was wearing a T-shirt that said "Save Dr. Reinhard." Callihan said he wanted Reinhard's contract extended

because the president "shows dedication to students. The things he's done since he's been here have made students feel more at home. There is a progressive atmosphere here, and he has brought us up to the standards of other schools."

Callihan estimated that "at least 80 percent" of the students strongly favor Reinhard. "I haven't heard any students speak out against Dr. Reinhard," he said.

The board went into executive session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss an extension on Reinhard's contract.

Joe Lamb, the editor of The Morehead News, challenged the closed meeting, saying the board was discussing simply an extension of a contract rather than an appointment or dismissal. Lamb said he obtained an "informal opinion" by telephone yesterday from Assistant Attorney General Thomas R. Emerson. He said Emerson told him that a discussion of a contract extension would not be exempt from the open meetings law.

But board attorney F.C. Bryan of Mount Sterling told the regents that they would be discussing Reinhard's appointment for another year and that the board legally could conduct a closed session. The board then voted 6-2 to go into executive session.

Two board members were absent when the vote was taken, but one of them, James Richardson of Owingsville, arrived as the executive session began.

Reinhard was president of Slippery Rock (Pa.) State University when he was chosen as Morehead's president on April 29, 1984.

Reinhard, a Covington native, was the unanimous choice of the Morehead regents after their nominating committee reviewed nearly 200 applications.

The new president took office at Morehead on July 1, 1984. In his first seven weeks, Reinhard ordered a sweeping administrative shake-up and warned faculty and staff that unless major changes were enacted to bolster Morehead's image, the university would "fall further behind the pack."

Among his actions were:

Exiling four vice presidents and eliminating the position of three deans. Some of those affected had deep ties with the community and their successors were "outsiders" chosen through national searches.

Consolidating Morehead's 25 academic departments into 17 and reorganizing the university's six schools into three colleges.

Toughening admissions standards for in-state students and nearly doubling scholarship money. Scholarships began to be awarded on academic merit. In the past, according to campus sources, scholarships often had been dispensed as a kind of political patronage through local school superintendents in Morehead's service area in Eastern Kentucky.

In his first address to faculty and staff on Aug. 17, 1984, Reinhard called the university's organizational structure "tremendously confusing."

He also warned of a high attrition rate that would lead some to "call us a revolving-door institution."

A year later, critics would charge that the tone and abruptness of his actions - not really the substance - had alienated sizeable portions of the campus and its supporters.

Regent Walter Carr of Morehead accused Reinhard of "doing things in such haste . . . without giving people a chance to prove whether they were right or wrong."

Reinhard himself professed to be somewhat puzzled by the reaction to his decisions.

"I don't know of anything controversial about me except the changes we've made," Reinhard observed in an interview last February. "I guess it's controversial as to whether you make them now or wait a year."

But the campus - and the board - became more polarized.

And last April 26, the board voted 5-4 to table Reinhard's request for an extension of his contract.

Afterward, 200 students staged a rally in support of the president. The alumni association's executive council unanimously endorsed Reinhard, citing the "significant positive change in direction in this institution" under his leadership.

Yet another indication of the split that had penetrated the university came in May, when faculty members voted 123-118 against endorsing an extension of Reinhard's contract. But the staff voted 227-159 in favor of an extension.

Over the summer, there was no action by the board, although the general feeling was that the board was

nearly evenly split on the question of Reinhard's future.

Caption: PHOTO MUG HERB F. REINHARD

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