

## MOREHEAD'S REINHARD TO RESIGN



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Morehead State University President Herb Reinhard announced his resignation yesterday, ending speculation about his future under the school's reconstituted board of regents.

Reinhard, 54, whose 21-month tenure as Morehead president has been marked with controversy, will resign on June 30, the same day his two-year contract with Morehead expires.

The regents accepted Reinhard's resignation, and former Gov. Louie B. Nunn, the board chairman, appointed two committees to begin searching for interim and permanent replacements.

In a four-page prepared statement, Reinhard said he and his wife, Nancy, decided that he should resign "because together we truly feel that such action is at this time in the best interest of the university."

"My resignation should remove any cloud over my actions and/or recommendations to the board between now and June 30."

Sweeping changes by Reinhard in Morehead's academic and administrative structure sparked a revolt by some former board members, leading Gov. Martha Layne Collins to ask all eight appointed regents to resign in January after they refused to extend Reinhard's contract.

Citing a "growing lack of confidence" in Morehead's leadership, Collins also asked Reinhard to take a sabbatical until his contract expired.

All but one regent, Walter Carr of Morehead, resigned - a development that left Reinhard with no board with which to negotiate a sabbatical or contract buy-out.

Earlier this month, Nunn, who had said the new board would not be bound by the old board's decisions, told Reinhard to attend yesterday's regents' meeting prepared to discuss his contract.

But Reinhard did not ask to stay at Morehead, Nunn said, and the board did not consider dismissing him.

"It (Reinhard's contract) was never discussed," Nunn said. "He took care of it himself."

Later, acting on most of Reinhard's recommendations, the board voted to raise some student fees and to

make large cuts in order to reduce a projected \$1.7 million shortfall in Morehead's 1986-87 operating budget by \$1.12 million. The deficit would have been created, among other things, by an anticipated 9 percent decline in enrollment.

The board rejected Reinhard's plan to save \$314,700 in scholarships and personnel by having Morehead reduce its athletic programs from Division I to Division II competition, but it did cut \$82,000 from the athletic budget.

Collins has proposed a \$500,000 special appropriation to help Morehead offset its losses - an amount that apparently is critical in enabling Morehead to balance its operating budget next year.

Collins is scheduled to speak Thursday morning at Morehead's 64th Founders Day celebration.

Both Nunn and former Gov. Edward T. Breathitt, the board's vice chairman, declined to speculate on what the board's reaction might have been if Reinhard had asked the regents to extend his contract.

Nunn told Reinhard at yesterday's meeting that Morehead's problems had existed before Reinhard's arrival on campus, and many would remain after his departure.

Nunn said he has already received inquiries about the Morehead presidency, although no opening technically existed until yesterday.

"The board doesn't intend to respond to a lot of political pressure," he said, "trying to get someone here just because of who they are."

Nunn appointed regent Calvin Aker to head a committee to search for an interim president to replace Reinhard.

Breathitt, who was named chairman of a committee to search for a permanent replacement, also refused to speculate on Reinhard's successor.

Breathitt said he had spoken with Harry Snyder, the executive director of the state Council on Higher Education, about Morehead "back when I was a member of the council," but he said those discussions were no longer relevant.

Snyder announced recently that he will resign the office no later than June 30 - the same day Reinhard's contract expires.

When asked if he was interested in the Morehead presidency, Snyder said he was not ruling out anything.

"I have no candidate," said Breathitt, who expressed confidence that "we can find a fine candidate and a fine person" to replace Reinhard.

Reinhard said in his resignation speech that he had accepted the Morehead job because he felt the board of regents "at the time of that appointment made it abundantly clear they wanted change."

Reinhard brought change, he said - "change that has been applauded by some and disagreed with by others, but change to bring us up to date . . . change to give Eastern Kentucky and all of the commonwealth the kind of university they so desperately want . . ."

Caption: Photo by Kevin L. Goldy LOUIE NUNN, left, chairman of Morehead board of regents, talked with Herb Reinhard at board meeting yesterday.

Memo: SEE CORRECTION BELOW

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