MOREHEAD -- Morehead State University regents offered a contract to the school's president-elect yesterday and accepted the retirement of a former president who was earning $49,500 as a consultant for the college.

After meeting an hour in closed session, the regents voted unanimously to offer a contract to C. Nelson Grote, a former Morehead dean whom the board voted to hire Nov. 14 as the university's 11th president.

Former Gov. Louie B. Nunn, the board's chairman, said he would not discuss details until Grote's contract was formally drafted and reviewed by Grote's lawyer.

But after the meeting, Grote said the contract "most likely" would be for four years, with an annual salary of $75,000.

Grote said he makes "just under" $72,000 a year as chief of a community college district in Spokane, Wash.

"We've had no disagreement on the terms and the salary," said Grote, 59. "I don't anticipate any problem with the details."

The regents also accepted a retirement request from Morris L. Norfleet, who was president from 1976 until 1984.

Norfleet serves as special consultant, president emeritus and professor of education.

Between March 31 and Dec. 31, Norfleet will be employed "on a temporary basis" at $4,433 a month.

In recommending the change, MSU President A.D. Albright said Norfleet was involved in special projects that will be completed this year.

Norfleet resigned as president effective June 30, 1984.

After a prolonged dispute with Morehead's board, he was given a four-year contract that paid him $59,500 in
1984-85 and $49,500 the remaining three years.

Norfleet, 56, said he had intended to retire as soon as he was eligible. Under a university policy approved last year, Norfleet became eligible at 55.

He has been active as a consultant in the Morehead area.

Yesterday's actions came as the university celebrated Founders Day, which this year marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of the academy that served as MSU's predecessor.

Grote, Norfleet, Albright and Adron Doran, who served as president from 1954 until 1976, were on campus for the ceremonies.

Conspicuously absent was Herb F. Reinhard Jr., who served a stormy, two-year tenure as president between Norfleet and Albright.

Reinhard, now president of Frostburg State College in Maryland, declined an invitation to appear, citing a schedule conflict.

Also yesterday, the regents approved a joint master's degree program in social work with the University of Kentucky.

Albright told the board that applications for admission to Morehead next fall were running ahead of last year's applications by 60 percent.

The university projects a fall 1987 enrollment of 6,200 students.

Caption: Photo by Kevin L. Goldy A.D. Albright, left, Morris L. Norfleet, Louie B. Nunn and Adron Doran gather during Morehead's Founders Day. (COLLEGES -- MOREHEAD)

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