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Academic affairs chief has long experience

By Vince Boucher

A University faculty member for almost 30 years was appointed vice chancellor for academic affairs at the Board of Regents meeting Saturday.

Adam C. Breckenridge, on the University staff since 1946, said he agreed to serve for three years as vice chancellor on Chancellor James Zumberge's request.

Breckenridge served as acting vice chancellor during the past year, following the appointment of Virginia Trotter as assistant secretary for education in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

A UN-L search committee was appointed to recommend candidates for the vice chancellor position.

High turnover

Search Committee Chairman Miles Tommeraasen said the committee decided that selecting a candidate from within UN-L ranks would be desirable because there had been a high turnover in the job.

Tommeraasen, who is vice chancellor of business and finance, said the committee included Breckenridge on the list of 10 names that finally were submitted to Zumberge.

"In my opinion Breck (enridge) fit closer than any other name to the criteria guidelines we established," he said.

Those guidelines included undergraduate teaching experience, and finding someone who was familiar with UN-L's double status as a state and land grant university.

Highly experienced

"Adam Breckenridge is highly experienced and he knows the university well. He isn't easy, but everyone agrees he is always fair," Tommeraasen added.

"When Dr. Trotter departed, the chancellor asked me if I would serve for a year with the understanding that I would then continue my service in teaching," Breckenridge explained.

When he was offered the permanent position, Breckenridge said he accepted with the three-year stipulation.

"I will conclude my service in the classroom. I came here to be a teacher although I have enjoyed all of my assignments in the university. I have had a varied set of experiences," he said.

Political science chairman

Breckenridge became chairman of the department of political science in 1953 and was named dean of faculties in 1955. His title was changed to vice chancellor for academic affairs in 1962, when the duties of the position included the entire University of Nebraska.

He was named vice chancellor for internal programs in 1966. He continued in that post until 1968 when he returned to teaching and research as professor of political science.

In 1973 he was asked to step in and serve as acting director of libraries at UN-L.

Breckenridge served in that post for one year because "libraries are important to me," he said.

Constant communication

As vice chancellor for academic affairs, Breckenridge said his duties included keeping in constant communication with the various deans at UN-L, developing programs for student academic and curriculum concerns and coordinating activities with his counterparts at UN-O and the N.U. Medical Center.

"I look forward to the next three years and the years that follow," Breckenridge said.

He is currently serving as a member of the Advisory Committee on Goals for Nebraska for the State Department of Economic Development, member of the Human Service Advisory Committee to Lincoln and Lancaster County and member of the Committee of Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom of the American Political Science Association.

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