

Zumberge's move not expected to delay committee search for Acker replacement

By Liz Crumley
Chancellor James Zumberge's appointment to Southern Methodist University hopefully will have no effect on the search committee looking for a replacement for Duane Acker, former vice chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, several committee members said.

Acker was named president of Kansas State University last April, the same month Zumberge appointed the search committee.

Ken Bader, vice chancellor of student affairs and committee member, said, "My position is that I'm going to encourage the search committee...Lame duck (committee) is not worth anything. We should proceed as quickly as possible, and maybe faster than we normally would have."

Roy Arnold, committee chairman, said he was not certain "what importance Chancellor Zumberge's leaving will have on our process...whether there will be any problems with the uncertainty of who the boss will be. But hopefully we will move

forward. The institute is well defined and position is well defined in terms of responsibility."

Five divisions

The Institute, established by the Nebraska Legislature in 1973, comprises five divisions geared toward formal industry, implied research and field work, according to T.E. Hartung, dean of the College of Agriculture.

The vice chancellor would be responsible for the programmatic direction, policies and budget of these divisions, Hartung said.

Hartung, who is replacing the vacationing Howard Ottoson, acting vice chancellor of the institute said he thought the institute was "moving smoothly under the acting status."

"However," Dr. Hartung said, "(UNL's) competitive position in attracting and holding staff is in a critical position. In the Big 8 we are struggling and we need to solve this problem."

Late September

Committee members said that late

September should be the completion date for the search. Arnold said at that time, the committee will present a short list of four to six names with supporting information to the chancellor.

The chancellor will review the candidates and make additional contacts with the candidate or candidates he would like to interview, Arnold said. He then will make a recommendation to NU President D.B. Varner. First approval will come from the NU Board of Regents.

Arnold said the nominees are not contacted directly, according to Chancellor Zumberge's wishes.

He also said the committee has agreed not to reveal any information about who has been nominated, "to protect individuals from any embarrassment that might result and to protect our ability to hire somebody."

100 nominations

Approximately 100 nominations have been received, Bader said, adding that about two-thirds of these have been placed in the reserve category.



This, he said, meant that either "more information was needed, or that the assessment was made that they didn't meet qualifications or didn't match those of others."

Bader said he thought the committee would need only two or three more meetings to prepare the list.

ADAPT—help freshmen understand the abstract

Improving instruction is the aim of ADAPT, an experimental program designed for freshmen who have not declared majors, according to Robert Fuller, physics professor and director of the program.

Fuller said ADAPT (Accent on Developing Abstract Processes of Thought) will help freshmen bridge the gap between concrete thinking and abstract reasoning.

A student who takes politics and physics, for example, may feel

uncomfortable with the abstract concepts of justice and force, yet may realize what it is like to experience revenge or feel the smack of a bat against a ball, Fuller said. The ADAPT program will use familiar, concrete objects to illustrate for students abstract principles such as "variables, boundary conditions and space-time relationships, Fuller said.

The 40 students in the ADAPT project will take specially designed courses in

English, history, economics, anthropology, mathematics, physics and philosophy. Fuller said the courses apply to group requirements in most colleges.

Fuller said students were chosen for the project at random from freshmen expressing interest in the program.

ADAPT is financed by a \$99,800 grant from the Exxon corporation and \$73,800 from university funds. Since the Exxon grant was awarded last January, a

nine-member faculty team has been holding weekly seminars and developing instructional methods, Fuller said.

During the summer of 1976, ADAPT materials will be revised and a new group of freshmen will be chosen for the 1976-77 school year, Fuller said. At the conclusion of the 1976-77 year the findings of the project will be shared with other schools at a national education conference, Fuller said.

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