

Officials reflect surprise

Surprise and disappointment were two of the reactions of members of the NU Board of Regents, ASUN President Jim Say and Gov. J. James Exon to last week's resignation by UNL Chancellor James Zumberge.

Zumberge announced his resignation last Wednesday. At the same time it was announced that his name will be submitted to the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Board of Trustees for president of that university.

Exon and Regent Ed Schwartzkopf of Lincoln both said Zumberge's resignation reflects the university's ability to attract talented people who later are selected for higher positions elsewhere.

Tight-fisted legislature

Zumberge said one of his reasons for leaving is the Nebraska Legislature's tight-fisted approach to faculty salaries and the current question concerning the division of authority between the Legislature and regents.

The Nebraska Constitution says the regents are "an arm of the Legislature," Exon said. The Legislature should "take a good hard look at budget requests" and appropriate money, then let the regents allocate the money as they see fit, he said.

Exon said it would be wrong to conclude that Zumberge left for any other reasons than for higher salary and a more prestigious job.

Higher salary

Zumberge reportedly would receive a \$75,000 annual salary with a \$25,000 pension fund if selected as SMU president. His salary at UNL was \$48,000 a year.

People in education are upwardly mobile, Exon said, and there is no reason to keep a man in Nebraska if he can move to higher places.

Whenever some one leaves the university there are "always groans and moans about money" and people say that if the university paid more these people would have stayed, he said.

"But as long as we're competitive in the Big 8 in salaries," Exon said, the university will continue to attract high quality people who will be mobile.

Other offers known

Schwartzkopf said that he was aware that Zumberge has been offered positions at other schools before being considered by SMU.

He said that "within the last year" Zumberge had expressed interest in the

presidency of the University of Minnesota and was "I think in the top three" on the list of candidates for the job.

Schwartzkopf said he would be disappointed if at least 200 people did not apply for the UNL chancellorship.

Zumberge said he would not recommend a successor, but added that he thought there were people within the NU system qualified for the job.

Regent Kermit Hanson of Omaha agreed with Zumberge, but declined to mention any names.

Difficult replacement

ASUN President Jim Say said he thought finding a replacement for Zumberge will be difficult.

"He (Zumberge) has been both an effective administrator and has been good in working directly with students," Say said. Say said Zumberge's involvement with students seeking to lengthen UNL residence hall's visitation hours was one example.

"Zumberge didn't have to become involved," Say said. "He could have passed the problem on down to one of his vice chancellors, but decided instead to show a real interest."

Say said he thought Zumberge related well to people in the state and increased goodwill between UNL and Nebraskans by expanding respect for education.

"He is an academician as well as an administrator, and this helped give the university more status in the eyes of Nebraskans," he said.

Acting chancellor not known

Say said he does not know who NU President D.B. Varner will select as acting chancellor once Zumberge leaves Oct. 1, and said the regents probably will decide at a Sept. 6 meeting the procedure for choosing membership to a search committee for Zumberge's replacement.

Varner was unavailable for comment on Zumberge's resignation, but in a statement released last Wednesday, said "there is no way to minimize the loss of Jim Zumberge."

"These are difficult times in higher education throughout the country. Certainly Nebraska is no exception. All of us have made a major commitment to building a stronger University for the people of this state and Jim Zumberge has given his best talent to his objective. There is no denying the moments of frustration which he—and others—have experienced."



NU President D.B. Varner



Gov. J. James Exon

daily nebraskan

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Pay called 'demoralizing'

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Zumberge said that current salaries don't compete with other institutions and that this has a "demoralizing" effect on the faculty.

On the other hand, Zumberge said, the Legislature has been very generous in supplying capital outlay for new buildings. He cited the new Law College, Love Memorial Library addition, physical plant improvements and the new Life Sciences Bldg. as examples of this generosity.

Administrative experience

Before becoming UNL chancellor, the Minneapolis native was dean of Arizona University's College of Earth Sciences and president of Grand Valley State College at Allendale, Mich. He received his Ph.D. from Minnesota University and was a professor of geology at Michigan University from 1950-62, becoming a full professor in 1960.

Zumberge has been a member of two expeditions to Arctic Alaska in 1946-47 and led an expedition to investigate the geological history of Lake Superior in 1961-62.

The Marine veteran also organized and accompanied two Antarctic expeditions, the first in 1957 as chief geologist for the U.S. International Geophysical Year study of the Ross Ice Shelf and the second in 1959.

His research in polar regions led to his appointment as chairman of the Polar Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences.

Recognition for Zumberge came when Cape Zumberge, Antarctica, was named in his honor in 1962 and when President Ford named him to the National Science Board, the governing body of the National Science Foundation, in 1974. He was elected to the board's executive committee last May.

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