

President's Message

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April 5, 2002

Tom Archibald's Retirement

After eight years of dedicated service, Tom Archibald, Assistant to the President for Information Technology, has submitted a planned retirement date and will conclude duties May 31, 2001. Tom has been instrumental in establishing an exemplary model of campus technology and bringing outstanding recognition to Valdosta State University. His contributions to VSU will be realized for many years. On behalf of the University, I extend deep appreciation and best wishes to Tom as he enters a new and enriched period in his life.

The search for Tom's replacement began with the appointment of a committee chaired by Dr. George Gaumont, University Librarian, and includes the following members: Ms. Lisa Baldwin, Information Technology; Dr. Hollis Barnett, Art Department, College of the Arts; Dr. David Boyd, Math/Computer Science Department, College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Andrew Brovey, Curriculum and Instructional Technology, College of Education; Dr. Carolyn Cox, Adult and Career Education Department, College of Education; Ms. Cheryl Hatcher, Decision Center, College of Business Administration; Mr. Walter Peacock, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Management; Dr. Deborah Weaver, College of Nursing; and Mr. Paul Worth, Information Technology. An advertised announcement reflects primary duties and title change to Chief Information Officer. The announcement can be reviewed at higherjobs.com. or chronicle.com.

The committee and I are conducting a national search projected to conclude no later than the end of May, 2002. We hope to have the individual appointed in time to spend several weeks with Tom prior to his departure.

Chancellor's Visit

Dr. Tom Meredith, the new Chancellor for the University System of Georgia, is scheduled to visit the campus October 9, 2002, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. He would like to see as much of the campus as possible during the initial visit and meet with various faculty, staff, and students. I will coordinate the schedule with his office staff and work with the Faculty Senate, COSA, and SGA to arrange a time to meet with Chancellor Meredith.

Former President's Residence

I have been asked repeatedly about the status of the former President's Residence and its availability for Nancy and me to move onto the VSU campus. According to the Policy Manual of the University of Georgia System, Section 909.02, item a., Presidents of research universities will be required

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to live, without charge, in university housing, unless an exception is granted by the Chancellor. Existing presidential housing at other institutions will be phased out as rapidly as possible, and no additional presidents' houses shall be purchased or constructed for those institutions. Presidents who are currently furnished housing shall continue to occupy that housing during their tenure as president (BR Minutes, 1984-85, p.114; BR Minutes, 1085-86, p.53-54).

When former President Hugh Bailey completed his tenure, the option of living in the Georgia House ended. Nancy and I continue to lease housing while we finalize decisions for the purchase of a residence suitable for presidential social functions, space for my art studio, and our private home.

Vice Presidents' Searches

The appointed search committees have been busy reviewing applications, screening the pool of candidates, and completing background checks. The list of finalists and interview dates for each position will be released as soon as possible. Finalists are required to make a presentation to the campus. Faculty, staff, and students are invited and encouraged to attend each candidate's presentation and participate in the review process.

To date, there have been 88 applications for the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs, and 108 applications for the position of Vice President for Student Affairs.

Strategic Planning Retreat

There has been great interest in the planning retreat and the process of creating VSU's future. The three-day retreat was successful in identifying a number of important topics. The initial planning document, scheduled for completion by mid-April, will be available for campus review. Additional information and details for review will be distributed at a later date.

In the interim period, the Organizational Assessment conducted as a prelude to the planning retreat is on reserve at the VSU Library. The report, prepared by Solutions 21, includes documentation of the March 4, 2002 meetings and related interactions with faculty, staff, students, and the president's cabinet. Additionally, the report presents data, comments, and results of the electronic survey conducted via the VSU technology network. Comments were extracted verbatim from each survey. The response rate to the electronic survey was 23%.

The Solutions 21 team did an excellent job of facilitating the retreat and recording major discussion points. Campus representatives were focused on VSU's current and future operations, and added significant insight to the overall planning process. Each participant was dedicated to the planning process and deserves our thanks and gratitude for a job well done.