Presidential Search Committee Chooses Swartzendruber

By Jeremy Yoder
Editor-in-chief

The 11-member search committee has announced its choice for EMU’s next president: Dr. Loren Swartzendruber, president of Hesston College.

"I am honored to have been invited into the search process and humbled by the trust represented in the decisions to this point," wrote Swartzendruber in an e-mail to the Weather Vane.

The Presidential Search Committee, which announced its choice of Swartzendruber at the end of last semester, included representatives from EMU faculty, staff and students as well as the board of trustees, the Mennonite Educational Agency and Mennonite Church USA.

In considering candidates, the committee looked for someone with "a strong Mennonite Anabaptist faith commitment" and "strong Mennonite Church connections," who is "an effective communicator, a dynamic, decisive decision-maker, an effective fund raiser, and a reconciling team-builder."

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Swartzendruber's involvement with EMU goes back to his own college days when he attended what was then EMC, majoring in liberal arts. After graduating in 1976 he served as an associate director of admissions and associate campus pastor. Since then three of Swartzendruber’s four children attended and graduated from EMU.

Swartzendruber has continued his education to receive a master of divinity degree from Eastern Mennonite Seminary in 1979 and a doctor of ministry degree in church leadership from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2000.

Regarding the switch from Hesston’s two-year to EMU’s four-year program, Swartzendruber wrote, "I'm not so sure the nature of the challenges will be so different as perhaps the number or frequency of them."

As examples, he cited the "inevitable tension between creativity and limited resources" and the difficulty of maintaining the same sort of "open door" policy he has enjoyed at Hesston with EMU’s largest student body. "I doubt I could be quite as accessible on a larger campus as I might wish to be."

"As for his relationship with students: I would hope to find ways to regularly meet with groups of students, and I enjoy having students stop by my office for a conversation when my door is open...I'd like to find ways to break down any perceived barriers."

"Becoming acquainted with new people, both on and off campus, will be energizing," wrote Swartzendruber. "I look forward to watching current and future students grow in their understanding of faith and service."

Comparing himself and outgoing President Joe Lapp, whose term of service at EMU ended June 30, 2003, Swartzendruber wrote, "I have known President Lapp for at least 25 years, going back to my days as a pastor in Pennsylvania when he provided legal counsel to me, and have great respect for him as a person and as a colleague. Our commitment to be followers of Jesus and to the church are similar."

But, he added, "He hasn't enjoyed as many gorgeous Kansas sunsets as I've been privileged to see! And, I don't have a collection of hats!"

EMU students elected junior Andrew Jenner and sophomore Chris Freight to the SGA Senate in Wednesday's midterm elections.

Nominations for the "Cords of Distinction" from the prospective university, present it to the U.S. embassy in their country and prove that they were capable of paying for their American education and living arrangements. Now the I-20s are done online, as are notifications of changing majors, going to part-time enrollment, dropping out, graduating early, or changing addresses.

In addition to new regulations, old laws are taking on new meaning. For example, it has long been the case that any international student changing their major, graduating early, or changing their country and proving they were capable of paying for their education and living expenses are now subject to the United States, with the major- ity of the changes affecting international students.

The INS was a part of the Justice Department and recently became a division of the new Department of Homeland Security. It is currently run by Commissioner Michael Garcia and is overseen by Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Before Sept. 11, it was clear that INS regulations needed overhauling, especially in the ways visas were tracked. An online system for keeping track of student visas was one of the proposed improvements. After Sept. 11, however, some international students were detained for break- ing this seemingly unimportant law. These violations have become reason enough to detain a student.

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Toughened INS Enforcement Affects EMU Students

By Michael J. Sharp
Managing Editor

Since Sept. 11 the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has started cracking down on foreigners living in the United States, with the major- ity of the changes affecting inter- national students.

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EMU President Joe Lapp will join Mennonite Mutual Aid after his presidential term ends on June 30, 2003. Lapp will be an MMA trust/investment advisor and a Mennonite Foundation representative.

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Nominations for the "Cords of Distinction" can be submitted until Jan. 18 at 5:00 p.m. See EMU website for details.

Betty Calabria's display of wall and free-standing paper and steel, is currently on display in the Hartlzer Library. The display closes on Jan. 31.