

President Epperly resigns

Dean of AVC becomes interim President

BY CINDY CAMERON

Dr. Elizabeth Epperly cited poor health as the reason behind her resignation from the office of President in June of this year. She has been replaced temporarily by former Dean of Veterinary Medicine Dr. Lawrence Heider.

In an interview with CBC, Epperly explained that a viral infection has caused her health to decline, making it unwise to continue meeting the rigorous demands of the presidency, a position she has held since 1995.

"This is a condition I have been living with for the last three years and more. They do not know exactly what this is, but I apparently contracted a viral infection in New Zealand when I was there in 1994," Epperly explained. She described symptoms such as congestion and a form of asthma, which have affected her blood pressure.

"If I take care of myself now... then I will be all right," Epperly stated, "But if I don't [take care of my condition], I'm not going to be all right."

Heider spent twenty-five years teaching veterinary medicine at Ohio State University before being appointed as Dean of Atlantic Veterinary College in 1991. He has had opportunity to work closely with Epperly during this time. His term as Interim President will last until June 30, 1999.

"She has been a tremendous force for good in the university, in my estimation," Heider explained. "I have tremendous respect for what she did here. I regret she could not complete her term because of health."

"It was a loss to the University. There is no ques-

tion about it," he added.

As Acting President, Heider intends to follow through on many of the plans made by Epperly, rather than to introduce any drastic changes. The on-campus health centre will remain, although the service will be modified. There will also be minor changes in Student Development and the Registrar's Office. Further, Heider hopes that students will be able to register via the Internet sometime in the next year.

He affirms that his administration is committed to student satisfaction.

"We hope that our services meet the needs and expectations of students. If they do not, we want an opportunity to discuss that," Heider asserted.

Changes in administration often bring about new styles of management. Many students are apprehensive about possible plans to cut programs as a cost-saving measure.

"I can't imagine that we are going to reduce the opportunities here. Things may get reorganized, but course offerings will still be there," Heider said. "If we try to specialize and refine further, then that means that we are going to cut something."

"Do I have a vision that we are going to cut anything? Not just in the ten months that I'm going to be Acting President, but beyond that: I don't see it."

The search for new candidates for the Presidency will begin immediately, following the election of a Search Committee. Normally, the process is routine, with the Committee

consisting of five members elected from the Board of Governors, and five members elected from the Senate. The term for Interim President ends on June 30, 1999.

Student Union President Matt Gray would like to see student input in the selection of the university's President.

"I'll be pushing for at least two students on a ten-

member board to pick a new president," Gray said. "I think that is a reasonable thing to pursue. And I will throw my weight behind it."



Right: Dr. Elizabeth Epperly.

Below: UPEI students Shine-a-rama for Cystic Fibrosis. Chris. L-R: Chris MacKinnon, Kristen Stavert, Melissa Allaby, Matt Stewart, Michael Curley and Murray Adams.

