



"...Feels Like A Kid In A Dime Store"

First Provost Leaves

by Sue Middleton

Provost Robert McDermott will resign his post as Chief Officer of Penn State Capitol Campus. McDermott has been the first to hold this position.

Describing the way he felt when assigned the position McDermott said, "I felt like a kid in the dime store." To give the school the organization that it lacked was the challenge McDermott faced. The route to go about this was completely his own choice.

When McDermott came to the campus six years ago he began to organize the administration. His major accomplishment was to set up the structure of the academic programs. Dr. Duane Smith, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, said this about McDermott, "He re-organized the administration to his personal style and the needs of the campus, and it's working."

McDermott came at a period of time which he referred to as "phase two". This phase was the beginning of the organization of the administration and the re-structuring of the academic programs. McDermott devised a workable plan for centralized budgets. He formed an administrative staff and got together program heads in order to improve the efficiency of the campus.

McDermott is responsible for eliminating many courses that, although offered in the catalogue, didn't really exist at Capitol Campus. He made provisions to add the courses he felt most important to those already offered.

According to Dr. Smith, "McDermott has done the things that needed to be done for this phase of development. He has gotten the guidance staff together. It is time for someone new to take the responsibility."

McDermott's successor has not been determined at this point. The choices have been narrowed down to three qualified persons; Robert Crowe, Benjamin Perles and Theodore Gross. None of these men are affiliated with Pennsylvania colleges or universities.



Provost McDermott's resignation will be effective as of January 1979. While on sabbatical, McDermott will take courses on campus. Following his sabbatical, he will return to teaching in September of 1979. The courses he will teach are Regional Planning and Social Science. In the past he has taught many courses in the fields of Forestry and Botany.

McDermott feels that Capitol Campus has increased industry and business in the Harrisburg area. As McDermott stated, "Since Capitol Campus began, many new industries have come to the area. About two-thirds of the students are from other parts of the state and a great deal of them stay in the area after graduation."

After graduation from Proviso Township High School, McDermott attended Wright Junior College in Illinois. From here he went on to receive his Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry and Masters Degree in Botany at Iowa State University.

Between the time of his B.S. and M.S. Degrees he served in the United States Naval Reserve during World War II. He was stationed in the South Pacific. He received his Doctoral Degree at Duke University in 1952.

Throughout his education McDermott received three honors including Sigma Xi, Xi Sigma Pi, and Gamma Alpha.

He has been cited in many publications such as: American Men of Science, Dictionary of International Biography, Leaders in American Science, Men of Achievement in 1973, The National Social Directory, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in American Education, and Biographical Directory of American Education.

McDermott has been involved in many civic organizations. He believes in being a good neighbor to the community. As an active citizen he has served in many community organizations. These organizations include: the Board of Community General Osteopathic Hospital in 1973,

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