

# Wilson Named President

## New UO President Is Personable Man, With Brilliant Mind

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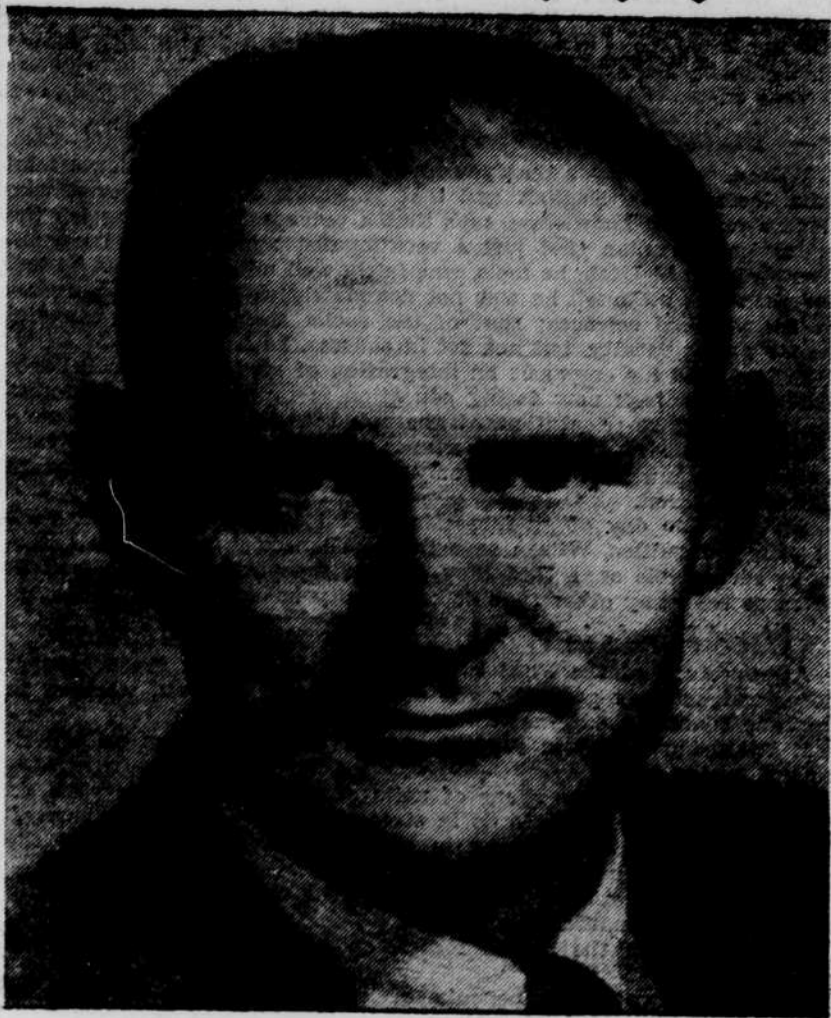
Oregon's new president, O. Meredith Wilson, is a very personable man, with a brilliant, incisive mind.

Forty-four years old and the father of six children, Wilson has a sincere, unpretentious manner; it is one of confident opinion, yet engagingly reserved and unassuming in expression. And the expressions of his beliefs as well as his past record indicate that he is intellectually tops.

Wilson has been on the campus twice prior to his interviews with the University board of deans and the faculty advisory council earlier this month. Once was at a north-west conference in Eugene on general education, when he consulted with Hoyt Trowbridge's faculty committee on general education, which was to develop Oregon's sophomore honors program. The second time was as a speaker before the state high school International Relations League.

His Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education met at Timberline Lodge in August of 1952.

Wilson's academic study was done in history, with emphasis on American history, and specialization in colonial history. At the University of London he studied English history, mostly of the Tudor period. His doctoral thesis was done on the Denver and Rio Grande railroad, a study combining historical and economic factors.



O. MEREDITH WILSON



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## Deans, Faculty Council Lavish In Praise of New President

Members of the faculty advisory council and the board of deans, who participated in the selection of O. Meredith Wilson as ninth president of the University of Oregon, are emphatic in praise of the man.

Victor P. Morris, dean of the school of business administration, senior dean, and acting president of the University, said:

"Dr. O. M. Wilson is an excellent selection for president of the University of Oregon. His clear-cut educational philosophy and his fundamental intellectual and moral principles assure us that the problems facing the University and the state system of higher education will be dealt with consistently, constructively and creatively.

"I believe that the University of Oregon under Dr. Wilson will take its rightful place of leadership in the development of upper division and graduate work, both in the liberal arts and in the professional fields. His broad academic training and his wide experience with colleges and with educational foundations hold out high hopes to us as to the stimulating quality of his leadership.

"I am enthusiastic about his selection as President. The University of Oregon will move ahead into another period of great development."

Hoyt Trowbridge, chairman of the council and professor of English, stated: "The search for a new president has been admirably conducted by the chancellor and his staff in a spirit of cooperation among all interested groups. The final decision was made by the state board as law requires, but with free and active participation by faculty representatives at every stage.

"Meredith Wilson was a leading candidate from the beginning and his appointment was recommended to the board after the October

interviews by both the advisory council, representing the faculty, and the board of deans. He will make a splendid president. He is a man of national stature with a wide and varied experience in university work.

"He is a scholar and teacher with a solid liberal training, an educational statesman who will give the University a strong and forward-looking leadership. He is the sort of man every faculty hopes to get when a new president is chosen, and his appointment is a very happy ending for us."

C. P. Schleicher, not a member of either body but an associate of Wilson's when both taught at Utah, was overwhelmingly enthusiastic about the choice. Said Schleicher, "The University is exceedingly fortunate in obtaining Wilson. He has a warmth of personality, and sympathy which enables him to work well with students, faculty, and the public. He possesses the ability to enlist all to work together in a joint cause.

"Wilson has the ability to make up his mind; he makes decisions, and carries them out." The new president has a strong interest in students, Schleicher said, and will find time to get in and work with the students, understanding their problems as he does.

Schleicher, who feels that the University has obtained the best available man in the country for the presidency, said that everyone at Utah was chagrined when Wilson left the college for the Ford foundation. He said that Wilson would take a pretty broad view of University education, as indicated by his integration of studies work, begun at Chicago and strongly pushed at Utah.

It was Schleicher who brought Wilson to the campus to speak before the high school International Relations league. Schleicher

also recalled Wilson's talks at the northwest conference on general education, when Wilson impressed students and professional people alike.

Said other members of the council:

W. C. Ballaine, professor of business administration: "I believe Mr. Wilson has the background and educational beliefs that the faculty want in their new president. He will surely receive their sincere support."

E. A. Cykler, professor of music: "Wilson is a superior man, one of the outstanding presidents in the country, and one of the finest available candidates one could ask for."

R. R. Huestis, head of the chemistry department: "We were in complete unanimity in the selection, pleased with Wilson's presentation in the interview. When we first considered candidates, he was a strong contender; when we met him, we were convinced that we had been fortunate in thinking of him as such a strong contender."

C. W. Macy, head of the economics department: "My impression was very favorable."

I. M. Niven, professor of mathematics: "The University is very fortunate in getting a man with excellent qualifications for the post."

And here is what members of the board of deans had to say:

Eldon L. Johnson, college of liberal arts and graduate school, who was an associate of Wilson's on the national committee for the selection of the Ford foundation's fellowship winners, and who had contact with Wilson when both headed liberal arts programs, Wilson at Utah and Johnson at Oregon:

"The selection is excellent. Mr. (Please turn to page two)

## Ford Fund Man Picked by Board

O. Meredith Wilson, a top official of the Fund for the Advancement of Education, a Ford Foundation program, was today unanimously named the ninth president of the University of Oregon by the state board of higher education.

Wilson, who has been secretary of the fund since 1952, was previously dean of the University college (comparable to Oregon's college of liberal arts) at the University of Utah, and associate dean of the College at the University of Chicago prior to that.

He replaced H. K. Newburn, who resigned the presidency Sept. 16 to head the Educational Television and Radio Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, also a Ford Foundation program. Oregon's new president plans to be in Eugene by March 15, 1954.

He was also appointed professor of history.

### Wilson Received Unanimous Endorsement

The selection of Wilson culminates four months of work by the state board, and two faculty bodies, the University deans and the faculty advisory council. The latter two groups gave unanimous endorsement to Wilson as their choice for President, and the board itself was unanimous in picking him when his name was formally placed in nomination this morning.

Earlier this month the board interviewed three candidates for president, two outsiders and one local man. The faculty groups also

### President Welcomes 'Return to Front'

Oregon's new president-designee, O. Meredith Wilson, welcomes this opportunity to return to education at the front, he told the Emerald. Wilson is presently secretary of the Ford Foundation's Fund for the Advancement of Education, which works to improve education externally through financial means.

A state university should be an educational agency for the entire state, Wilson said, working with public education at all levels. And, regarding a university program, he said that the only just question which could be asked of a university is: Is it doing what is the most important thing that can be done in its situation?

Wilson stated that he takes an intellectual interest in students, that anyone on an administration or faculty should be interested in the intellectual growth of students. Other aspects of student life he said, are important, but as settings to intellectual growth.

Mrs. Wilson told the Emerald that she was very happy about her husband's appointment, and that she felt he would be an excellent president. Oregon is a magnificent state, she said (having visited Oregon on past occasion).

Dr. and Mrs. Wilson have six children, the oldest, Meredith Jr., 14, and the youngest, Margaret, 2½. The others are Connie, Diane, John, and David.

interviewed the two non-Oregon nominees. A total of 20 definite candidates were screened by the board and the faculty advisors.

R. E. Kleinsorge, president of the board, said that "We are indeed fortunate to have attracted Dr. Wilson to head the University of Oregon. His broad experiences as a scholar, teacher, and administrator are such that he is eminently qualified to lead the University. We are particularly happy that he is to be available relatively soon."

Chancellor Charles D. Byrne, who worked with Dr. Wilson on the Western Interstate commission higher education executive committee, hailed the appointment as one that "will meet with great approval in the campus community and will provide splendid leadership for the University's role in the Oregon state system."

Said Wilson today, "It is a real pleasure to be chosen to work with faculty and students of the University of Oregon and with the state

### KOAC to Broadcast Wilson Election

A transcription of the state board of higher education's selection of O. Meredith Wilson as University president at today's meeting will be broadcast on station KOAC at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The recording, made as the board elected Wilson the ninth Oregon president, is being broadcast on the regular radio program of the state board report.

board of higher education. Mrs. Wilson and I are looking forward to the opportunity of again directly sharing in university experiences."

"Oregon and its University enjoy a fortunate reputation in educational circles. The rapid increase in population there presents problems and opportunities that should make an educator's life exciting and profitable. I am eager to join with the chancellor, the board, the faculty of the University, and with Oregon's other institutions in shaping the state's educational future."

A graduate of Brigham Young University, where he obtained his BA degree in 1934, Wilson did graduate study at the University of Heidelberg and the University of London. He earned his Ph.D. degree at the University of California in 1943, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Wilson is considered to be an outstanding scholar in American history.

### Taught at BYU, Utah, and Chicago

Wilson's teaching experience includes assistant professorships of history at Brigham Young, the University of Utah, and the University of Chicago; associate professorship at Chicago, and professorship at Utah. He was also dean of the school of arts and sciences at Utah from 1947 to 1948.

Wilson's major accomplishment at the University of Utah was a reshaping of the general studies program to bring the various academic disciplines into more unified relationship as to subjects taught. The political scientists, economists, and sociologists, for example, were more closely integrated in the social science field.

The program operated along a system of faculty seminars, since one must first work with the faculty in order to have an effect on (Please turn to page two)