



University Pres. William Boyd faces evaluation from the State System of Higher Education after finishing his first three years in the University's top administrative position. In three years Boyd, shown above while interviewing for the job in 1974, while speaking to the

student body in 1976 and in a recent interview, has often been the center of University controversy, especially with decisions concerning the School of Librarianship and the School of Community Service and Public Affairs.

Controversies typify Boyd's performance

Analysis by
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Of the Emerald

Budget strains replace student unrest as concerns

After more than three years at the University, Pres. William Boyd faces a performance evaluation by the chancellor of the State System of Higher Education.

Boyd, who succeeded Robert Clark in July 1975, assumed leadership at a time when the entire State system was beginning to

show signs of financial strain.

From nearly the moment he arrived on campus, Boyd has stirred controversy with his decisive — but often alienating — handling of a variety of issues.

But controversy erupted before he ever set foot in Oregon.

The task of finding a replacement for Clark began in late 1973 with the establishment of a Uni-

versity presidential search committee that would review applications and make recommendations to the State Board of Higher Education.

The 17-member committee immediately came under fire from students, faculty and city residents for its lack of a single member representing an ethnic minority.

Some reshuffling altered the make-up of the search committee and, after wading through more than 300 applications, it recommended three persons to the state board.

Board members chose Boyd, who had served since 1968 as president of Central Michigan University. Before that, he was vice chancellor for two years at the University of California at Berkeley, where he served as a mediator between the administration and student activists.

Boyd recently discussed the University's budget problems and other major issues of his 3½-year tenure.

"Our first big flap was minority education," he says, adding that his re-organization of University minority programs in 1975 may have been "impolitic," but necessary, just the same.

Boyd announced his decision in

August 1975 to dismantle what was then known as the Educational Opportunity Services (EOS), an administrative substructure with separate admissions and financial aid services for minority students, and replace it with a more centralized and "academic-oriented" program.

Boyd also closed four cultural centers designed to serve the special needs of black, Chicano, Native American and low-income white students.

His decision to close the centers enraged center directors and students, alike. Both accused Boyd of failing to consult them for input before his announcement and complained that loss of the centers would cost disadvantaged students necessary academic and emotional support.

Boyd responded that "hundreds of human hours of consultation... led to these decisions." However, he neither denied nor admitted the centers' worthiness, except to say underfunding prevented their becoming top-quality.

Students staged a rally and symposium, but Boyd's decision stood and the new Academic Opportunities Program opened in late 1976.

Boyd became disenchanted

with that program and appointed a faculty-student committee to investigate creation of still another University program for minority students.

The result of months of study and heated discussion is the existing Council on Minority Education. The University Assembly approved a plan for the new program in April 1977, despite opposition from then AOP Director Willetta Wilson, who claimed that the new program was a form of segregation because it served minority rather than disadvantaged students.

The council is getting several academic programs off the ground this year, but it is too early to measure its success.

Minority enrollment is low, and it remains to be seen whether or not the council will turn that trend around. Whatever the final outcome of Boyd's re-organization of minority programs, his original statements and actions hurt alienated students who were already disenfranchised from the University.

Boyd says the most serious problem he has faced in the past three years is a budgetary one, which prompted him to close the University School of Librarianship and re-organize the School of

(Continued on Page 9)

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