

# emerald

## Davis accepts job as chancellor

### Weathersby bows out; scoffs at 'an offer I could refuse and did'

From Emerald  
and Associated Press reports

University of New Mexico Pres. William "Bud" Davis was hired as chancellor late Friday night by the State Board of Higher Education after its first choice, George Weathersby, bowed out when he was offered a salary between \$70,000 and \$80,000.

Board members, wearied by weeks of touchy negotiations with Weathersby, were obviously relieved when Davis accepted the job for a salary of \$75,000 plus benefits.

"The board is happy with the way it turned out," said Robert Ingalls, who headed the board's three-member negotiating team.

Davis, 53, withdrew his name two weeks ago when the board offered the job to Weathersby, Indiana's 37-year-old commissioner for higher education. After Weathersby rejected the board's salary offer Thursday night, Davis was asked to reconsider. Final negotiations were conducted quickly Friday afternoon and Davis was offered the job shortly after a 9 p.m. conference call of the board.

The other remaining chancellor finalist, Kalamazoo College Pres. George Rainsford, was called by Board Pres. Ed Harms after Davis was hired.

Harms said the board's original vote on its top choice for chancellor "was essentially a tie" between Weathersby and Davis.

"We think Davis will fit in well and understands the area," Harms said. "We're pleased that he's coming to Oregon."

The primary problem facing the state system is underfunding and erosion of quality, Davis said in a press conference after he was interviewed by the board late last month.

The system is not overbuilt, he said, but education leaders must sit down with legislators and citizens of the state and decide what level of higher education taxpayers are willing to support.

"You have to decide what league you want to play in," he said.

Weathersby was reported as saying the board would have a hard time finding a qualified chancellor for the money it is willing to pay. "They made me an offer I could refuse and I did," Weathersby said in an interview Friday with an Indian-



Photo by Duane Shrag

William "Bud" Davis answers questions from reporter.

apolis paper.

Weathersby is paid about \$70,000 a year, but says he earns another \$12,000 from his work as a consultant for foundations, institutions and non-profit corporations. Both Weathersby and Ingalls denied news reports over the weekend that said Weathersby had demanded \$90,000 for the Oregon post.

"What was being discussed was less than my current income and no more than is currently made by the presidents of some of the campuses," Weathersby said when contacted by telephone Thursday at his Indianapolis home.

Leonard Laster, president of the Oregon Health Sciences University, earns about \$82,500.

Weathersby said the salary offered "didn't appropriately reflect the set of decisions I thought had been made relative to the responsibility that the position should have."

"It (the salary offer) says the position

(of chancellor) is no more significant and is looked upon as equal in responsibility" to the job of a university president," Weathersby said.

"If you want to deal with a market of first-class people and first-class institutions, then you have to recognize the market you're dealing with," he said.

Davis has been president at the University of New Mexico for seven years and was the president of Idaho State University for 10 years. He has a bachelor's degree in physical education, a master's in education administration and a doctorate in higher education.

In addition to the \$75,000 base salary, Davis will receive \$5,000 for on-the-job expenses and will reside in the chancellor's house. The state pays about \$18,000 a year for a housekeeper, utilities and upkeep for the large house.

Davis will become the seventh state system chancellor July 1, succeeding Roy Lieuellen.

## Olum says budget cuts won't close schools

By Ann Portal  
Of the Emerald

The University's latest \$230,000 budget cut hasn't endangered any professional schools, but it may cause the restructuring of some programs, University Pres. Paul Olum said Friday.

The State Board of Higher Education directed the University last week to cut \$230,000 through additional program reductions. The University also must provide the board with \$75,000 in program reduction "options" to allow the board flexibility in choosing cuts.

"We will not close out any whole professional school organizations, but there are serious considerations of some reorganizations," Olum said.

He said University administrators have just begun planning those reorganizations, which will be presented at a University Assembly meeting of faculty, students and staff Wednesday at 3:30 in Room 150 Geology.

University Provost Richard Hill said the program reductions will not be permanent and will not include entire programs. Further faculty and staff reductions are possible, he said, noting that the University already has eliminated 96 academic positions since 1979.

"Every position you look at now is important for this University," Hill said.

Program reorganizations could include relocating and combining some programs to lower administrative expenses, he said.

The state board also instructed the University to cut a total of \$1.4 million through salary adjustments. Each institution was given the option of deferring salary increases, laying off staff, using "educational leaves," or choosing some combination of the three.

Olum continues to support postponing next year's 6-percent raise for faculty for as long as it takes to absorb the cut. When the faculty do receive the raise, they will get the full 6-percent, which at least maintains their base salary at a level comparable to that of getting the raise earlier in the year, he said.

Hill said there is considerable disagreement on campus about how to handle the salary cut. Unless Olum has strong evidence against raise deferrals, they appear to be what the majority of the faculty favor, he said.

Postponing the raise is not an option for members of the Graduate Teachers Federation or the Oregon Public Employees Union. Their contracts would have to be renegotiated before that could happen, and Hill said he doesn't think there's any chance that will happen.

Instead, GTFs and classified staff probably will be laid off for an unidentified length of time. The lay-off will be carefully calculated for the shortest possible amount of time, Hill said. "We don't want to take a cent more from our staff than we have to," he said.

The final program cuts chosen by the board will not be known until the board's March 25 and 26 board meeting in Portland.



Photo by Bob Baker

## Which way is up?

The horizon's reflected image is captured by a puddle on the EMU balcony.