

McCall praises Lieuallan's tenure

By Debbie Howlett
Of the Emerald

Had Chancellor Roy Lieuallan, the "quarterback" for the State System of Higher Education, worn a jersey, they probably would have retired his number the day he retired.

Instead, the outgoing chancellor received an emeritus appointment and plaudits from several people, including ex-Gov. Tom McCall.

McCall paid a "surprise" visit to the State Board of Higher Education meeting at Portland State University said he came to "gush" over Lieuallan, who retires today. The meeting last Friday was Lieuallan's last as Chancellor.

"We have so much in common. We both came from the sticks in eastern Oregon and became big potatoes," gushed the ex-governor.

McCall reminisced about the term he and Lieuallan served on the Educational Commission of the United States. "It exposed me to the international as well as national respect enjoyed by Roy Lieuallan."

"There has never been a more effective friend to higher education in the United States than Roy Lieuallan," said McCall.

The ex-governor said Lieuallan "steps down scarred but undamaged" and that Oregonians owe the chancellor "a diamond-studded championship belt."

"In my book, Roy Lieuallan retires undefeated," said McCall as Lieuallan jumped from his seat to embrace McCall.

"This is an emotional experience for me," Lieuallan told the board members.

McCall, who recently underwent radiation treatments for a cancerous tumour in his back, appeared to be in considerable pain as he sat down. "I warn you," he said, "once I sit down it will take the whole board to get me back up."

Earlier in the day, state Sen. Jim Gardner, D-Portland, told Lieuallan that "on behalf of myself and the Legislature, I wish to express a sincere feeling of gratitude to you, Lew, for your dedication."

Gardner also thanked Lieuallan for "keeping the system intact and protecting its integrity."

"We all owe you a debt of thanks for that," Gardner said.

Later in the afternoon, board Pres. Ed Harms read a letter from Gov. Vic Atiyeh.

"Lew faced a tough and often thankless job," Atiyeh wrote. "I often found Roy Lieuallan a warm personable individual with a warm sense of humour."

Harms interrupted his reading of Atiyeh's letter with some words of his own.

"Suffice it to say that Roy Lieuallan truly has been a man for all seasons. . . . I believe the job Lew has done in the last couple of years is outstanding. He has kept the faith and fought a good fight."

After his comments, Harms moved that the board appoint Lieuallan "Chancellor and Professor Emeritus."

"I'm grateful for the 'hyperbole,'" said



Emerald Photo

Outgoing Chancellor Roy Lieuallan in action.

Lieuallan. "When people ask what the satisfactions are, it is the opportunity to work with these people . . . the governors, the legislators the institution presidents, the board . . ."

That was it — no retired jersey, no gold watch. After all the praise "Lew" just slipped quietly out the door and headed back to Eugene. His style remained unchanged.

Davis

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Photo by Mark Pynes

Davis takes the helm as chancellor, saying he has 'Oregon Fever'.

University.

"Even being new, I share (Olum's) anguish and concern," Davis said. "Further cuts can't be made without injury to programs."

Although today is Davis' first official day, the new chancellor won't be in his office until next Monday, then he says the first few weeks will be an orientation period.

Davis will meet with his staff during the first half of the week and then he'll spend the last half at the Governor's conference on "New Federalism" in Portland.

After the meetings, Davis wants another meeting, with the presidents of state system colleges and universities.

The parallels between Davis and Lieuallan are distant. Both are concerned just as deeply about higher education in Oregon. But Davis, by some accounts, is not the political force that people see Lieuallan as.

Make no mistake, the new Chancellor does have a political strategy. During the state board meeting, board members approved and appointed a vice chancellor position for Davis' administration to be stationed at the capitol building in

Salem. Davis has said many times that this position is of great importance in maintaining legislative advocacy for the state system of colleges and universities, especially when the Legislature is in session.

The transition seems to be changing gears nicely, Davis appears more than ready to jump into the chilly waters of Oregon's economy.

In a speech to the Association of Oregon Faculties at Oregon State University on June 5, Davis outlined his plans for the state institutions. He has what he calls "Oregon Fever," but while the phrase seems a little corny, the sentiment is strong.

"What I am proposing is an all-out attack on all fronts to lay a solid base of public support and confidence for its state colleges and universities," Davis said.

Davis is prepared to fight for Oregon's system of higher education, and the new chancellor seems to realize the extent of damage done, no doubt of that. But will his sentiment, his feeling for the fight, remain longer than the deep burnish of his southwestern tan?



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