

Trustees name new YSU president

By KELLY LANTERMAN
Editor-in-Chief

In an emergency meeting called by YSU's Board of Trustees at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 23, Dr. Leslie Cochran, Provost at Southeast Missouri State University, was chosen to succeed current YSU President, Dr. Neil Humphrey, upon Humphrey's retirement June 30.

After calling the meeting to order, the Board went into executive session. Nearly one hour later, the nine members of the Board voted unanimously to elect Cochran.

Geletka said that Cochran was chosen for the presidency because "the entire community was impressed about his background, his mannerisms, the way he reacted to the interviews, his 11 years as Provost of Southeast Missouri State and the student body was definitely impressed with him."

According to Geletka, another deciding factor was that Cochran was

confident, and he was blunt in stating that he wanted the job.

In a phone interview, Cochran stated that his good friend and mentor, Dr. Charles Ping, Ohio University President, had nominated him for the position last year.

Geletka said that Cochran possesses many positive qualities that he will bring to YSU.

"First of all, he has very strong academic qualities. Also, he has two other key qualities, being his allegiances with the other universities he's been a part of," Geletka said.

Cochran worked his way up from a professor in the department of industrial education and technology to vice provost for academic administration at Central Michigan University. From there, he went to Southeast Missouri State University, where he has been serving as provost.

Student Government President Scott Smith said he is very happy that Cochran



Dr. Leslie Cochran

was chosen.

"He's better than any other candidates we've had so far, including the candidates last spring.

"He has a diverse list of qualities that we need to take us further into the 90's," said Smith.

According to Geletka, Cochran's con-

tract should be signed soon.

"The contract is in the process of being negotiated. All we have to do is cross the t's and dot the i's," Geletka said.

He said that he felt the entire search process went extremely well.

"It's the first time in University history that we've ever used a search firm, and everything went very well," Geletka said.

Dr. Charles Taylor of Lamalie Associates, the Cleveland-based search firm which guided YSU's search, said he was impressed with the whole process, and that Cochran will bring many positive qualities to the YSU community.

"[He] has had experience in things that are important here at YSU. He knows the intercollegiate athletics, he knows the budget, he knows fund-raising, he has excellent interpersonal skills, and he knows how to work with community and external groups," said Taylor.

"I think the Board made an outstanding decision," said Taylor.