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Presidential Morris Stepping Down

Graduation Climaxes Quarter of Disquiet

Approximately 4,500 degrees were conferred by SIU in June commencement exercises which climaxed a quarter of disquiet culminating in the closing of the Carbondale Campus. The total includes 3,400 degrees conferred at Carbondale and 1,100 awarded on the Edwardsville Campus. More than 500 master's degrees were awarded, along with fifteen six-year specialist certificates and sixty-seven doctorates.

Although the Arena was packed for each of two commencement programs at Carbondale, about 800 graduates had asked that their degrees be conferred in absentia. They, along with most other students, had left campus when classes were halted a month earlier. Commencement programs were held without incident.

SIU campus disorders, like those on campuses across the nation, were built around anti-war demonstrations and peaked after four students at Kent State University in Ohio were killed by gunfire from National Guardsmen May 4.

At Edwardsville, a significant number of students observed the National Association of Students' day-long strike on May 5. Chancellor John S. Rendleman, speaking to hundreds of students and faculty members in the University Center there, said that closing the University would have no effect on the war in Indochina.

Although personally against the war, the chancellor said, "I don't think the University as an institution has an ideological viewpoint."

Tensions on the Edwardsville Campus remained high, but violent disorder was avoided. A day-long moratorium May 18 was devoted to discussions of war, racism, and violence. One student demand which was accepted by Rendleman and put into effect was the disarming of campus police during daylight hours.

At Carbondale, classes were cancelled May 7 for memorial services to the student dead at Kent State. But protestors continued disruptive activities which had begun earlier with damage to Wheeler Hall, which houses the SIU Air Force R.O.T.C. unit, and Woody Hall, where the Center for Vietnamese Study and Programs is quartered.

SIU President Delyte W. Morris, who brought the institution from a small teacher's college to one of the largest universities in the nation during his 22-year tenure, will become "president emeritus" as of September 1.

Morris asked for the change at the regular June meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Board acceded to the request "with great regret" and moved to name a committee to iron out details.

Morris asked that after September 1 he be given fifteen months to concentrate on planning and development work for SIU, and then a sabbatical leave until September 1, 1973. After that, he said, he wishes to retire.

He said he had been privileged since 1948 to participate in "one of the most rewarding developments in American higher education." He quoted education expert M. M. Chambers, who has termed SIU's growth "an educational miracle."

Addressing the Board, Morris recounted the milestone steps in his twenty-two years: the first independent SIU Board of Trustees in 1949; opening of an extension center at Belleville the same year, which led ultimately to the new Edwardsville Campus, and burgeoning of the once-limited educational program to encompass professional training and a wide range of master's and Ph.D. programs.

He also cited pioneering projects in vocational-technical education, community and area development, and service.

But Morris said the very success of the University "has

To Up Faculty Involvement

More full-time faculty involvement in the education of undergraduates is a top priority item on the agenda of the new acting chancellor at SIU Carbondale. Dr. Willis E. Malone, who has taken over for departing Chancellor Robert W. MacVicar, says he has made faculty-student relations his chief concern.

"Bringing our full-time faculty members into closer touch with students is all important for the coming year," Malone explains. "The deans are conscious of this and support the move. We have begun the process of re-shaping undergraduate education."

Malone, a 1940 SIU graduate and longtime member of the faculty, was assistant to MacVicar for academic and personnel matters before being named acting Carbondale chancellor June 3.
Nelson and Yarbrough
1970 Great Teachers

A sightless department chairman and a young earth sciences instructor have received 1970 Great Teacher Awards presented by the Alumni Association on the Carbondale and Edwardsville campuses, respectively.

The Edwardsville Campus award, presented in Honors Day ceremonies, went to Ronald Yarbrough. A member of the SIU faculty since 1964, Yarbrough holds both B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Tennessee and has completed course requirements for the Ph.D. degree at the same institution.

Yarbrough was cited by alumni for his ability to convey his enthusiasm to his students, for his knowledge of his subject matter, and his "ability to capture the attention of even the most casual student." One alumnus said, "He treats students as important individuals."

Dr. Randall H. Nelson, chairman of the government department, received the Carbondale Campus award, presented at the annual Alumni Day banquet. Nelson was blinded by wounds received in combat in World War II, later receiving three degrees including the Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

A member of the SIU faculty since 1955, he was cited for his careful preparation and excellent lectures, his knowledge of his respective teaching field, and his awareness of current problems. One ballot described him as "a scholar who has kept in touch with the soul and spirit of man."

This year marked the first time two Great Teacher Awards have been given. The Alumni Association has presented a single, University-wide award since 1960, deciding this year to give an award for each campus.

The award consists of an appropriately engraved plaque and a $1,000 check. Both awards were presented by Alumni Association President Andrew H. Marcce '56.

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created certain problems," one of which has been the necessity to take new looks at SIU organization with each new development.

A three-year study has led to recommendations for University reorganization, and a report by outside consultants is due shortly. Morris said various departments of the University are "concerned" about their place in a new structure, and that he shares the concern.

"Most people work best in a fairly well defined situation," he said, "but the situation at Southern Illinois University has changed so rapidly and so often that in many cases feelings of insecurity have resulted."

Morris said SIU's president should be freed from routine administrative matters in order to establish closer contact with students, citizens, and faculty members; to try out innovative projects, and to develop University relations with foreign and domestic agencies, government bodies, and sources of financial support.

Other projects he cited as deserving of presidential attention included the Missouri-Illinois Regional Industrial Development Corporation (of which he is chairman); cultural and performing arts projects in the metro-East area of Madison and St. Clair counties, and projects in humane studies, the environment, and SIU's fast-moving crime and corrections program.

Morris said no forms of reorganization can be effective unless "means can be found to restore law and order to the University community and to ferret out and eliminate from it those who simply do not wish to see the University continue."

He asked for authority to eliminate from SIU campuses "those people who persist in disruptive tactics," and to protect students' right to attend classes.

Finally, Morris said, "If Southern Illinois University is an educational miracle, the credit belongs to the people of the area who have insisted upon the best possible education for their sons and daughters; to the far-sightedness, broad-mindedness, and stubborn courage of its independent Board of Trustees; the dedicated work of its faculty members and other employees, and to the eagerness, energy, and intelligence of the many students who have obtained their education on our campuses and have gone out into the world as responsible citizens."

Achievement Awards to Two

Alumni Achievement Awards were presented to two recipients at the annual Alumni Day banquet June 6, one of them honored for professional achievement and the other for service.

Receiving the professional achievement award was Dr. Robert F. Etheridge '48, M.S. '49, vice president for student affairs at Miami University, Ohio. The service award went to Edward V. Miles Jr., '19, who retired at the end of last year after fifty years on the SIU faculty.
The Vietnamese Center in particular had been a continuing target of protestors for some time. Students from other campuses as well as non-students from a wide area had been identified with center protests.

Continuing demonstrations and vandalism—both on campus and in the downtown Carbondale area—led to a callup of National Guardsmen and Illinois State Police to help maintain order. Carbondale Mayor David Keene proclaimed a state of civil emergency and placed the city under a dusk-to-dawn curfew, but there were repeated student-police clashes.

In the face of persistent rumors, President Delyte W. Morris issued a statement shortly before noon on May 12 that neither campus of the University would be closed.

Assuring that every effort would be made “to protect the University community, including persons and property,” Morris said such protection “extends not only to personal safety, but more importantly, to the basic freedoms—freedom of the faculty to teach, freedom of students to learn, and freedom of supporting personnel to carry out their responsibilities.”

Full Force of Law

“Those who may choose to interfere with these freedoms may expect to be severed from the University if presently a part of it,” he warned, “and if not a member of the University family may expect the full force of the law and denial of access to University property.”

That night, however, National Guardsmen and State Police were recalled from the campus and the city. A protest group which built to an estimated 5,000 or more marched unmolested through city streets and back to the President’s Office on campus. Both the office and President and Mrs. Morris’ residence were broken into, the home ransacked.

The mob—estimates of its size at this point range as high as 7,000—demanded that the University be closed. The mood grew uglier as the night wore on; threats to burn the University and the city to the ground were frequently voiced.

Faced with what was considered grave and imminent danger to both the University and the community—and with only the University security force and Carbondale police available for protection—the administration acquiesced.

Campus Closed

Chancellor Robert W. MacVicar announced that the governor and members of the Board of Trustees had been consulted by phone and that the Carbondale Campus of SIU was closed indefinitely. Thousands of students celebrated a Pyrrhic victory in the streets of the city throughout the night. By morning the exit from campus had begun.

The next day, about 5,000 students proclaiming themselves “supporters” of the University gathered on the lawn in front of Morris Library. They asked for and were granted the right to vote on the closing of the University.

Results of the referendum, however, supported action already taken. Of 15,240 votes cast (12,607 of them by stu-

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The Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University has met under the leadership of President Morris, and has discussed the student unrest on the Carbondale Campus. The Board decided that the campus should remain closed until peace can prevail.

The Board resolution stated in part: "WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University has met with the Governor, the President of the University, both Chancellors, representatives of the faculty of both campuses, representatives of students of both campuses, and a number of students who asked to be heard by the Board. It has reviewed the past and current situation on the Carbondale Campus and in the nation. It has carefully considered all of these matters and recommendations.

"The Board is deeply concerned with the educational opportunity available to students on the Carbondale Campus, and is seriously concerned with the imminent danger to life and property at that location. The Board is very greatly disturbed by the current major disorders on this campus and their effect on the educational opportunity actually available at this time.

"It is therefore resolved that the classes on the Carbondale Campus be suspended for the remainder of the present term ..."

Chancellor MacVicar, meanwhile, completing his final weeks at SIU before assuming the presidency of Oregon State University, had called for immediate faculty planning "to begin to chart our course for the days and years ahead."

Program Review

MacVicar later summed up his feelings in a memorandum to the faculty:

"The events of the last month (at SIU) point to many sources of student discontent. Certainly one of the most cogent feelings that I have as a result of these circumstances is that what we were offering our lower division students was not sufficiently important to them that they wished to make the choice between making a point by closing the University or keeping it open in order to enjoy the benefits of the program. This is a loud and distinct signal, at least to me, and I believe it should be one that should alert all administrative officers and all of the faculty of the University to the urgent necessity of reviewing our undergraduate offerings ..."

The Illinois General Assembly also reacted quickly to campus disturbances across the state. College and university administrators, including President Morris, and others were called before the House of Representatives for an open hearing.

Among other things, Morris called upon the legislature to provide laws making it easier for institutions to control the flow of agitators and disruptive non-students on their campuses.

Speaking at the annual Alumni Day banquet on May 6, he expanded upon this idea. He noted that of about 500 persons arrested during May disturbances on the campus and in Carbondale, only about 300 were SIU students. Some of the non-students, he said, were from as far away as California and New York.

Morris called for a public national policy to prevent universities from becoming "instruments of tyranny."

Dissidents Warned

"Those who are responsible for operating the University must be vigilant and diligent in cleansing the University of those who seek to disable or destroy it," he concluded. "As we proceed, we must—if we hope to protect our University and keep it free—be as careful to be fair as we are to be firm. It is my hope that this University will open smoothly and in orderly fashion with the beginning of the summer term."

(Earlier in the day, the Alumni Association Legislative Council had passed the following resolution: "RESOLVED: The Association of Alumni and Former Students of Southern Illinois University, through its Legislative Council and Board of Directors, strongly supports President Delyte W. Morris and endorses the recommendations he made recently to the Illinois General Assembly concerning needed legislation banning agitators and non-students from state university campuses." The resolution was widely distributed.)

Willis E. Malone, who became acting Carbondale Campus chancellor June 3, outlined in one of his first communications to the faculty procedures for adjudication of discipline cases resulting from the May disturbances. Records of all students arrested or reported to have violated the Student Disciplinary Code will be reviewed, he said, and all students charged have been or will be notified in writing.

Right to Appeal

Appropriate disciplinary action will be recommended by the dean of students, Malone said, and all students will have the right to appeal the dean's recommendation to the Student Conduct Review Board. Final disposition will be the responsibility of the chancellor.

"In appeal cases in which the recommended penalty is separation from the University, the student may petition the chancellor to remain in school pending the completion of the appeal," Malone said. "The chancellor, after consulting with the dean of students and other University officials, may grant such petitions unless there is evidence that the continued presence of the individual on the campus represents a clear and present danger to the University community."

Malone said it is expected that cases of all students planning to enroll for the summer session would be handled before the beginning of classes, and that all other cases would be disposed of prior to the opening of fall quarter.