

# Trustees vote 8-0 for Cecil Mackey

A bantering and jovial Board of Trustees approved Cecil Mackey as the 16th president of Michigan State University during a special meeting Thursday morning.

An overflow crowd of deans, administrators, selection committee members, secretaries and media representatives responded to the board's 8-0 decision with spontaneous applause.

Mackey, 50, is currently the president of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. He is expected to assume his duties at MSU on or before Sept. 1.

Mackey's appointment came 18 months after former President Clifton R. Wharton, Jr., announced he would step down in January 1978 after eight years at MSU's helm. Mackey will succeed Edgar L. Harden, whom the board named to fill the post until a permanent successor was chosen.

Following the board's official action Thursday morning, Mackey met with media representatives for a half-hour session and then spent the rest of the day in meetings with various constituencies.

Mackey will bring to MSU 10 years of academic administration including two university presidencies, an academic teaching career going back more than 25 years and seven years of major federal service.

He has served as president and professor of law at Texas Tech since September 1976. Prior to that, he was president of the University of South Florida in Tampa for 5½ years. He also is a nationally recognized expert in transportation policy.

Preceding the formal board vote, Mackey had been approved unanimously by a 6-member select committee consisting of three trustees and three faculty members. He also was approved unanimously by the 18-member all-University presidential search and selection advisory committee. Mackey spent the day Wednesday meeting with the advisory committee and individual trustees.

The appointment was the culmination of a lengthy selection process that saw the names of more than 250 potential candidates considered. It was a period that also was marked by occasional acrimony sparked by unauthorized disclosure to the media of confidential information on various candidates.

However, that was mostly forgotten in the spirit of pleasure that followed Mackey's appointment.

John B. Bruff, chairman of the Board of Trustees, said he believed Mackey was the best possible choice to head the University and that his selection more than made up for the hard work and anguish that went into the selection process.

"Dr. Mackey brings to Michigan State

an academic and administrative record that is precisely what is needed to strengthen and advance MSU's reputation for excellence," Bruff said.

"His proven ability in many important areas, his outgoing personality and his willingness to listen and to work with people make Dr. Mackey an outstanding choice to lead MSU in the difficult years ahead.

Bruff also praised outgoing President Harden for his stewardship of the University in the interim period.

"Dr. Harden filled a vital role in keeping the University on track during a period of uncertainty when the institution's position of strength easily could have been eroded," he said.

Mackey will take office on the eve of MSU's 125th anniversary year.

Born in Montgomery, Ala., Mackey received his bachelor's degree in 1949, and a master's degree in 1953 from the University of Alabama. He then attended the University of Illinois, where he received his Ph.D. in 1955. His field was economics. He also holds a law degree from Alabama, which he received in 1958.

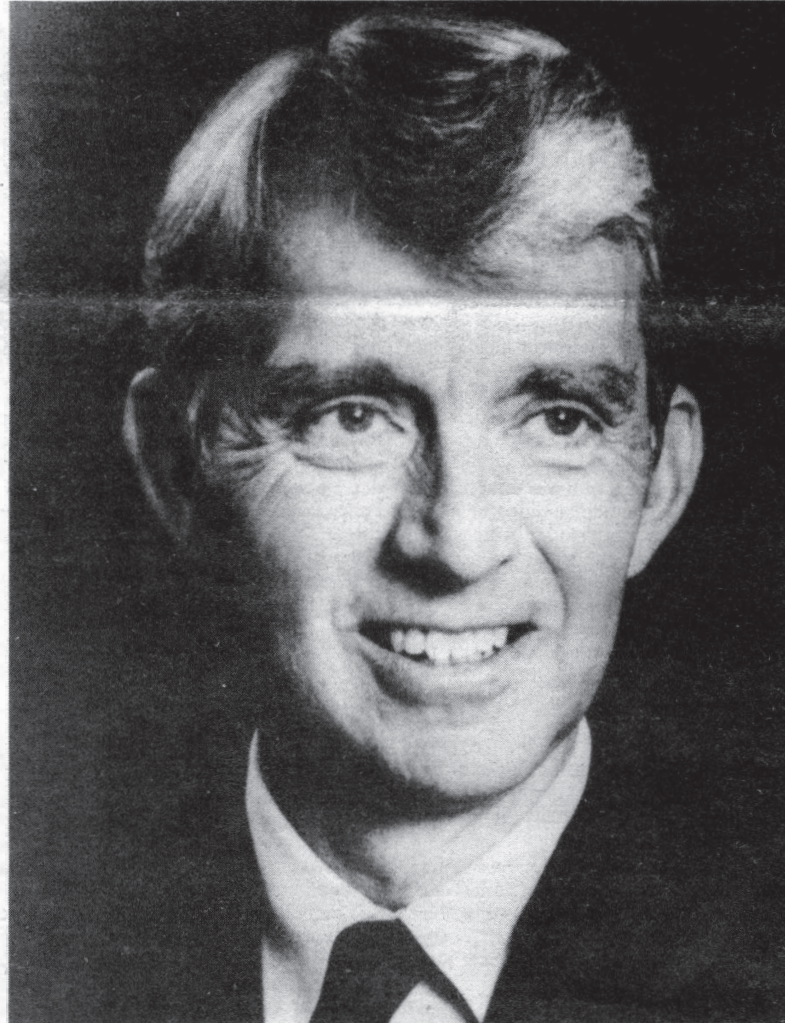
Mackey began his teaching career as an assistant professor of economics at the University of Illinois in 1955. He also taught at the U.S. Air Force Academy and the University of Alabama.

From 1963 until 1969, Mackey held a number of government posts in Washington as assistant counsel of the Senate Antitrust and Monopoly Subcommittee, director of the Office of Policy Development of the Federal Aviation Agency, director of the Office of Transportation Policy of the Department of Commerce and assistant secretary for policy development in the Department of Transportation.

In 1969, he returned to academia as vice president for administration and then executive vice president at Florida State University in Tallahassee. He was chosen to head the University of South Florida in February 1971 and to be president of Texas Tech in September 1976.

Mackey also has been active in state and national affairs. From 1977 to 1978, he was president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. He also is on the board of directors of the American Council on Education, a member of the advisory council of the National Science Foundation and an associate of the China Council.

In 1953 Mackey married Clare Siewert. They have three children: Carol 22, John 12 and Ann 11.



CECIL MACKEY