

Nominating report prepared by president



Chairman of the presidential search and selection advisory committee, Robert Barker, (left) presented the name of Cecil Mackey to the Board of Trustees on June 7. The board voted 8-0 to appoint Mackey as MSU's 16th president.

This is the document prepared by the presidential search and selection advisory committee on Cecil Mackey. It is a nomination statement to the Board of Trustees and according to committee chairman, Robert Barker, it is similar to documents prepared on each of the committee nominees. The second half of the statement — the comments of committee members — was written after a 6 or 7-hour committee interview with Mackey, Barker says.

The only difference between this statement and those written for other nominees, Barker says, is that this report on Mackey was written by three members of the select group, Gwendolyn Norrell, Lester Manderscheid, and Barker. The nominating statements for the other candidates came from the entire committee. Barker emphasizes that the nomination of the new president was approved unanimously by the entire 18-member committee.

MAURICE CECIL MACKEY, JR.

Cecil Mackey is President and Professor of Law at Texas Tech University. Dr. Mackey received his undergraduate education at the University of Alabama, majoring in economics with minors in English literature and political science. He pursued the same major through the master's degree, specializing in management and statistics. His doctoral studies at the University of Illinois dealt with economic theory, government relation to business, the history of economic thought and finance. Dr. Mackey began his academic career as an Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois and later became an Associate Professor of Economics at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Denver. He studied law and received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Alabama in 1958. During 1958-59 he undertook graduate studies at the Harvard Law School and then returned to Alabama for three years as an Assistant Professor of Law. His specializations in corporation, antitrust and administrative law are related to his interest in economics.

Dr. Mackey has had extensive government experience. From 1962 to 1969 he served as Assistant Counsel to the Senate Subcommittee on Antitrust and Monopoly, as Director of Policy Development for the Federal Aviation Agency, as Director of the Office of Transportation Policy of the U.S. Department of Commerce and finally as Assistant Secretary for Policy Development of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Since leaving government service ten years ago, Dr. Mackey has held a number of university administrative posts. Between 1969 and 1971, he was Vice President for Administration and Executive Vice President at Florida State University, and from 1971 to 1976, he served as President of the University of South Florida. He became President of Texas Tech in 1976.

While neither Texas Tech nor South Florida are land grant institutions, Dr. Mackey believes that many of his current functions resemble those of a land grant president. The Colleges of Agriculture, Engineering, Medicine and Law at Texas Tech serve a variety of interest groups and constituencies. Dr. Mackey understands and believes that the land grant heritage provides special opportunities for teaching, service and research, and through them to respond to the needs of the state, the region and the nation. He expresses an interest in and a commitment to Extension Services, viewing them as models to serve the needs of society. In Texas, Dr. Mackey has worked closely with a variety of constituency groups that are important to Michigan State University's land grant mission.

Dr. Mackey expresses a whole-hearted commitment to affirmative action. He believes that universities must go beyond the letter of the law and that the president is responsible for setting the goals of the institution. He states that affirmative action must be pursued "because it is right." His record of achievement is good. At Florida State University, he was responsible for the administration of the affirmative action program. At South Florida he developed an affirmative action plan that later served as a model for the other universities in the Florida State System. During his tenure at South Florida, he recruited minorities and women who served on his staff. He instituted a comparability study and remedied inequities in salary and rank of female faculty. One of his first acts at Texas Tech was to establish an affirmative action program for recruitment of faculty and staff. He has also instituted recruitment programs for Black and Chicano students. The program for Blacks is successful, having good retention relative to national standards. The Chicano program has done

less well, having a high attrition rate. Dr. Mackey indicates a willingness, as president, to participate in the development of, and to review the performance of affirmative action programs. He has a realistic awareness of the many social and societal factors that affect the success of such programs and is concerned with ways to modify them. He has challenged the faculty of the Texas Tech College of Education to recognize the need for educational innovation aimed at solving the problems of minority high school dropouts. Dr. Mackey believes that the minority student needs special motivation toward an academic career, including counseling and help in course selection in high school so that the student has an interest in a university career and is not limited in the pursuit of future college opportunities. His administration would give financial support to provide these incentives. He also sees the need for universities to work with other components of the educational system (community colleges and technical schools), and has made the facilities of Texas Tech available to such institutions for programs of special and continuing education for minorities. It is clear that Dr. Mackey pursues affirmative action as a personal commitment that is not always shared by some of the university's constituencies. As further evidence of his concerns, Dr. Mackey and his wife brought suit against a country club in Washington to force desegregation of its membership.

Dr. Mackey works hard to foster the development of good relationships among the president, the faculty and the students. He has continued to teach in the law school. He frequently visits the students in their residence halls and creates opportunities for informal contact with students and faculty by encouraging an open-door policy.

Dr. Mackey is a calm and pleasant man. He is a good listener and he understands and responds well. He expects to hear from his administrative staff and he expects to be kept informed. He believes in delegating responsibility at all levels of administration and holds his administrators accountable. He describes a close working relationship with his vice-president and deans. While open to faculty and student inputs, he expects that each administrative level function as a component of the system. He has been able to meet with faculty in the colleges and believes that an effective faculty senate is essential. He has been responsible for creating such bodies at both South Florida and Texas Tech.

Dr. Mackey believes that the president and the Board of Trustees must form a good working relationship. The president must know what the Board wants to accomplish. He has a personal commitment to excellence in a wide variety of programs and is especially interested in programs that will benefit society — including international programs. He is interested in the sciences and serves on the National Science Foundation Science Advisory Council. His personal interests also include sports, the social sciences and the arts. These predict a balance of concern with various university programs and promise a holistic approach to the institution's development.

Dr. Mackey projects the values of a scholar. His scholarship focuses on the social organizations that affect individuals and groups in our society. His perception that institutions of higher education must play an increasingly vital role in society's adaptation to a changing world is persuasively expressed. He believes that universities and colleges are the major agents for change in our society. He perceives that government cannot legislate the changes that must occur, and that research and education, with universities in the lead, will bring about those changes in understanding and attitudes that will contribute to the evolution of our society. His own scholarly efforts are concerned with such matters from both a national and an international perspective.

Dr. Mackey is comfortable working with many different constituencies. He has a fine sense of the relationships of alumni interests in athletics to the development of the total university. He has a genuine ability to understand and respond to the needs of divergent groups. In discharging his duties as President of Texas Tech and South Florida, he has gained great experience with local and regional interest groups and his years in Washington provided similar close contact with national organizations, legislative and administrative groups.

The institutions that Dr. Mackey has served are similar to Michigan State University in that they are public. While these state-supported institutions will continue to be funded primarily by the state, it will become increasingly important in the coming years to seek funds from the private sector. Dr. Mackey realizes the importance of such efforts to the future well-being of this university.

The Select Committee, with much assistance from the Search and Selection Committee received input from faculty, students and administrators at South Florida