

Jeanne Sisson, 04:01 PM 10/2/98 , MEMO FROM PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

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Date: Fri, 2 Oct 1998 16:01:09 -0400
To: faculty-list, admin-prof-list, support-staff-list, announce@skidmore.edu
From: jsisson@skidmore.edu (Jeanne Sisson)
Subject: MEMO FROM PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE
Cc: jsisson

To: The College Community
From: The Presidential Search Committee
Date: October 2, 1998

The following announcement is being made today at the faculty meeting:

The search for a new president of Skidmore may be drawing to a close very quickly, and the next two weeks will be crucial in our process. As you know, we have been careful to release only appropriate information at each step in the process. Today, the Committee would like to fill you in on the search process to date and our plans for its completion. We expect to release the name of our final candidate and specific details about that person next week.

As you may remember, we solicited input from the college community last winter regarding the qualities a new president would be expected to demonstrate. We summarized the unique qualities we sought in a president in a nationwide advertisement and an eight-page position description, both available to you on the web since early spring.

The 14-member committee--four faculty, two students, one administrator, and seven trustees--read and seriously considered almost 100 applications with supporting materials in April, May, and June of 1998. During a series of committee meetings here and in New York, the number of applicants was narrowed to 17 semifinalists, all of whom were interviewed in person by the entire committee. After these interviews, the number of applicants was reduced to eight finalists. The remarkable individuals comprising this very strong pool presented a diverse array of educational leadership experience. Former and current college presidents, provosts, and deans from highly selective and respected institutions were represented, as were candidates whose experience in educational leadership came in part from other areas, including foundations and government.

Extensive referencing by committee members took place on all eight remaining candidates, after which the committee reduced the pool to four finalists on whom additional referencing was conducted. As committee discussions proceeded on this group of candidates, it soon became apparent that one candidate was the clear and unanimous choice of the committee for Skidmore at this time in the College's history. The committee conducted further research to explore the candidate's personal and professional qualifications and abilities, including 24 phone calls and a two-day visit by two members of the committee to the candidate's city and place of employment for 12 in-person interviews with the candidate's associates.

All members of the Search Committee are tremendously enthusiastic about this candidate. We are proceeding with the following schedule to introduce the candidate to the campus community. The Board of Trustees has met this afternoon with the candidate in New York for informal discussions. Some members of the Search Committee will be meeting with CAPT next Tuesday to discuss the candidate's credentials. The candidate will be on campus on Monday, October 12, to meet with CAPT and other individuals and groups in the college community. That October 12 visit will include open meetings with faculty/staff and students, and we are planning that schedule now to give the candidate the broadest possible exposure to the community.

We are working as quickly as possible to inform all members of the

community in detail as to the candidate's background and qualifications in advance of October 12. All members of the Search Committee will be open to comments from members of the community after the candidate's visit. Finally, if all goes as we hope it will, the Search Committee will make its recommendation to the Board of Trustees in time for them to vote on Skidmore's next president at their fall meeting: October 22. Additional information on the schedule and the candidate will be forthcoming on e-mail as we move closer to the October 12 date.

If you would like a better sense of the candidate's qualifications, you might look again at the final two pages of the position description. When we made up that list of qualifications we were seeking in a president, we never expected that we would find anyone who could come close to fulfilling them all. We do believe, however, that this candidate meets the professional and personal qualifications stated there to a remarkable extent, and we hope and believe that you will all agree with us after October 12.

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