

the interior

October 8, 1975

ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Richard D. Wenek, director of the Institute of Polish Studies at Saginaw Valley State College since 1973, has been dismissed, Dr. Jack M. Ryder, SVSC president, said today.

The dismissal is effective as of 8 a.m., October 8, 1975. Wenek will be given terminal pay through October 25 to assist him in locating a new position.

Dr. Larry F. Collins, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, has been named acting director of the Institute of Polish Studies until the new permanent director is named, Dr. Ryder said.

Dr. Ryder said a search for a new director will begin immediately. The Search Committee will be composed of faculty members from the Departments of History and Modern Foreign Languages. The search will be concluded as speedily as possible to assure leadership for the Institute.

Dr. Ryder emphasized the dismissal of Wenek has not dampened his enthusiasm for the Institute. The Institute, he said, is an important part of SVSC and will continue to function. The new director will have a doctor of philosophy degree in an appropriate discipline; speak Polish with native or near-native fluency, and be qualified for appointment at the rank of assistant or associate professor, will be a full-time member of the faculty for teaching purposes, and a part-time member of the administration as Institute Director.

"To assure the full academic stature of the Institute," Dr. Ryder said, "it is necessary that the new director have a doctoral degree. It is the intention of this college to advance the position of the Institute not only on the campus but in the community, state, and nation."

Dr. Ryder said every attempt will be made to have the current classes meet as scheduled. However, he said, any student who wants to withdraw from a class will be given full tuition repayment. Detailed information on this will be provided the students by letter.

The letter terminating Wenek's position with the college was delivered to him Tuesday. The reasons for termination are contained in the letter and may be released by Mr. Wenek if he wishes.

Dr. Ryder also commented on statements attributed to Wenek that college administrators discriminated against Polish Americans. Dr. Ryder said this is not true.

"I have no evidence," Dr. Ryder said, "that Saginaw Valley State College is in any manner discriminating against people of Polish descent. If such discrimination did exist, it would be eliminated."

Dr. Ryder also said the college has received no inquiry concerning alleged discrimination by college administrators from Federal or State civil rights agencies.

Mr. Wenek was named director of the Institute for Polish Studies in November of 1973. The Institute came into being when the State Legislature by a line item appropriation included \$25,000 in the 1973-74 SVSC budget to establish such an Institute. The request to the Legislature for the Institute came from a group of Polish American residents in the Saginaw-Bay City area who wanted the college to teach the Polish language, Polish culture, and Polish history.

CAMPUS NOTES

Ava Washington, Dorm A-3, is SVSC's first Homecoming Queen. Members of her court are: Marie Awad of Bay City; Adrienne Points of Detroit; Janeen Sullivan of Saginaw, and Nina Emmaline Wolfe of Bay City. Reception for Queen today at 3 p.m. in Doan Center.