

the Interior

For Saginaw Valley State University employees. Published by the Office of Information Services. Call 790-4054 with news items.

May 25, 1989

SVSU names new president

Dr. Eric R. Gilbertson has been selected as the third president to head Saginaw Valley State University in its 25 year history. The announcement came yesterday at a special Board of Control meeting, called to receive and act upon the Presidential Search Committee's summary report of the six-month search process.

Although committee members had expected to present approximately three finalists for the governing board's consideration, only Gilbertson's name was placed in final nomination. He was one of four candidates who earlier completed campus visits at the search committee's invitation.

Gilbertson, 44, comes to SVSU from Johnson State College in Vermont. He has been president of the 1,500 student college since 1981. Prior to that, he practiced law with Vorys, Sater, Seymore and Pease in Ohio for two years. From 1973 to 1979 he was executive assistant to the president of Ohio State University.

Other positions Gilbertson held include legal counsel to the Ohio Board of Regents and Assistant Attorney General of Ohio. He taught economics at Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio and at Kent State University before entering law practice as clerk to Ohio Supreme Court Justice Robert M. Duncan. Gilbertson graduated cum laude with a Juris Doctor degree from Cleveland State University. He holds a Master of Arts from Ohio University and a Bachelor of Science in economics from Bluffton College in Ohio.

Board member Charles Curtiss introduced the motion to appoint Gilbertson, effective August 28, at a salary of \$95,000 annually. In

accepting the appointment, Gilbertson noted, "We accept this responsibility soberly and pledge you our very best efforts." He also commended the Ryders for "bringing the University to the stature it now enjoys."

Informality and openness are characteristics of Gilbertson's management style, he says. "I observe things that work for other managers and try to mimic or modify them. I seek contacts at various levels." Successful managers must delegate, he believes, but cannot allow the organizational structure "to become a shambles."

Among his choices of diversions from work are tennis, skiing, music and theater. Time with his family, which includes wife Cynthia, 13-year-old daughter Sara and 10-year-old son Seth, is a priority with Gilbertson.

Gilbertson sees both similarities and differences between Johnson State and SVSU. He refers to both institutions as "portals of opportunity" and notes "both are basically regional state institutions with a teaching mission. However, Johnson State is smaller, is located in a rural setting and is largely residential."

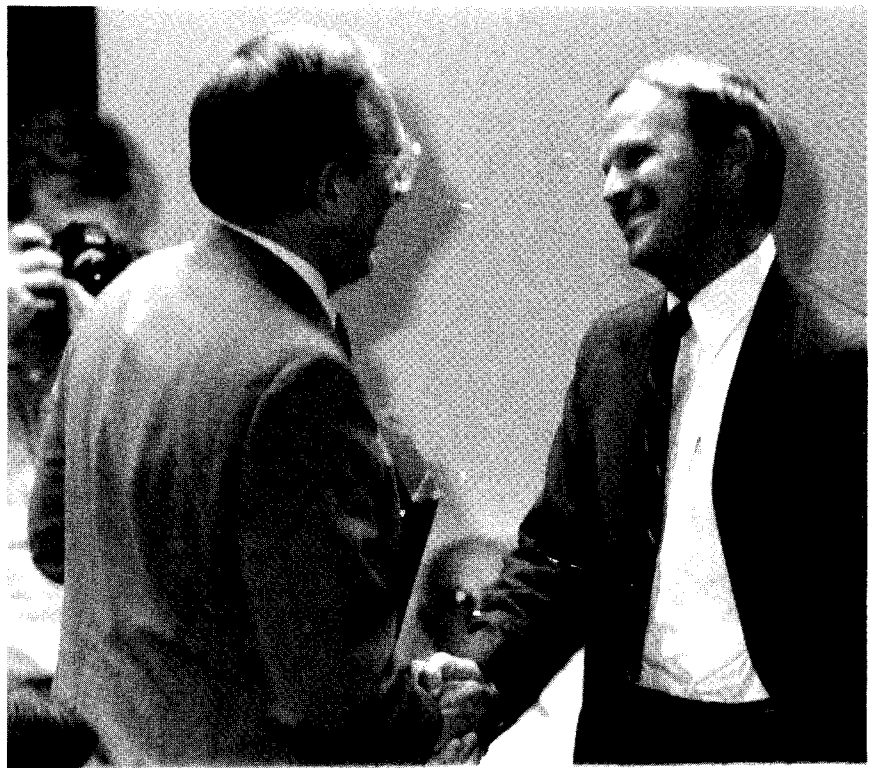
He plans to devote much of the first six months of his tenure to gaining input from the campus community regarding the University's direction for the future.

Credentials of more than 130 candidates from across the nation were reviewed by the search committee. Others to visit the SVSU campus included Dr. Raymond M. Burse, former president of Kentucky State University at Frankfort; Dr. Robert W. Carrubba, dean of the graduate school at the University of North Carolina; and Dr. Lon W. Weber, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Kearney State College, Kearney, Nebraska. A fifth candidate, Dr. James E. Lyons, president of Bowie State University, withdrew.



Dr. Eric Gilbertson

Dr. Eric R. Gilbertson meets with deans and directors during his April 24-25 visit to campus as a presidential candidate. The meeting was one of a series of sessions with various groups by each of four candidates for the top University post. Candidates fielded questions from the audience and had the opportunity to express their views on education and SVSU. Those attending the sessions were encouraged to submit response forms evaluating the candidates. Responses were among the materials considered by the Presidential Search Committee in selecting finalists to present to the Board of Control.



At left, above, Cynthia Gilbertson smiles encouragement as Board of Control members pose questions to her husband before adopting a motion naming Eric R. Gilbertson next president of SVSU. Originally from Ohio, the Gilbertsons are looking forward to returning to the Midwest.

In the photo at right, current President Jack M. Ryder presents his congratulations and a Cardinal-red striped necktie to incoming President Gilbertson. "I add my congratulations to you, Mr. President," Ryder said. Gilbertson responded by voicing his congratulations to the Ryders "for bringing the University to the stature it now enjoys."