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Jones named UAF chancellor

By TOM MORAN, Staff Writer

The search for a new University of Alaska Fairbanks chancellor is over.

UAF officials announced that Stephen B. Jones, the vice chancellor for extension and engagement at North Carolina State University, had been selected by UA President Mark Hamilton to replace retiring Chancellor Marshall Lind. Jones was one of three candidates recommended to Hamilton by a search committee Tuesday.

"We are confident we have the right person for the job in Stephen Jones," Hamilton stated in a Friday press release. "He brings a terrific mix of academic strengths, strong community service and valuable experience in the business world. He'll keep UAF on the right track."

Neither Jones nor Hamilton, who was out of town, could be reached for comment on Friday. Lind said he was pleased with the choice.

"I think he brings a lot of skills to the position," Lind said. "I think he'll do a good job with it."

Jones has been a vice chancellor at North Carolina State since 2001, where he oversees all of the university's extension, outreach, and distance and continuing education efforts. Before that, he had served as director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System at Auburn University, as an associate professor and assistant director of the School of Forest Resources at Pennsylvania State University, and as the director of the Northeast Petroleum-Forest Resources Cooperative and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Prior to entering academia, Jones spent 12 years with the Union Camp Corporation, a paper and allied products manufacturer. He received a bachelor's degree in forestry and his Ph.D. in resources management from the State University of New York in Syracuse, and also holds an associate degree in forestry from Maryland's Allegany Community College.

The chancellor works as the CEO of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, reporting to the university president, and is responsible for all aspects of UAF administration. Jones will be paid \$245,000 a year for the job, which, according to the university release is the national average for universities of the type and size of UAF.

Jones was one of four finalists for the position chosen by a 27-member search committee formed after Lind, the UAF chancellor since 1999, announced his intention to retire. All four finalists made visits to the UAF campus this spring, with Jones making the final visit on May 10-11. The committee forwarded three of the names to Hamilton on Tuesday for him to make the final selection.

Therese Sharp, a member of the selection committee, said she was pleased with the choice. She said committee members were happy with all three names they put forward.

"I am very satisfied, and I think the entire committee would tell you that," she said. "We would not have forwarded the three names if we were not comfortable with all three."



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The other three candidates who made it as far as the campus visit stage were Stephen G. Wells, president of the University of Nevada's Desert Research Institute; Jay Noren, executive vice president provost and dean of the graduate college of the University of Nebraska; and Lois Muir, provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of Montana. Sharp wouldn't say which two of those three names were forwarded to Hamilton.

Sharp said she was personally impressed by Jones' "vision, leadership, and ability to bring people together."

Lind, who met with all four of the candidates, said he's comfortable with Jones filling his shoes. He said he appreciated Jones' sense of humor, and also thinks Jones' breadth of experience would help him in a campus with diverse programs and offerings like UAF.

"He's an experienced administrator, and has done a number of things in higher education," Lind said. "I think that will help him a great deal because of the complete range of things that we do here."

Rogers and his wife Judy plan to be in Fairbanks by mid-July, while Lind is set to retire on July 1. UAF Provost Paul Reichardt will serve as acting chancellor between Lind's departure and Jones' arrival.

Reporter Tom Moran can be reached at tmoran@newsminer.com or 459-7590.

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