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UMM chancellor search progresses

Summary: Following interviews with four finalists for the position of the next UMM chancellor, the Chancellor Search Committee has submitted its report to University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks and Vice President Robert Jones.

(May 3, 2006)-Following interviews with four finalists for the position of the next chancellor for the University of Minnesota, Morris, the Chancellor Search Committee has submitted its report to University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks and Vice President Robert Jones.

One of the four candidates, Dr. Frank Cassell, has withdrawn his candidacy. While Cassell indicated that he was very impressed by the University and commented specifically about the quality and commitment of faculty, staff, and students and the warm welcome by the University and the Morris community, he and his wife Beth decided that they would not be an effective match for UMM.

The committee was asked to provide a confidential, unranked list of candidates with a summary of their strengths and weaknesses. "We compiled our results from information gathered by the committee in reference checks, on-campus and off-campus interviews, through the confidential 'chancellor candidate evaluation forms' provided by community members, faculty, staff and students and through summary meetings with the various constituencies which had separate meetings with each candidate," said Nancy Carpenter, chair of the Chancellor Search Committee. "We then evaluated each candidate based on the criteria outlined in the position description."

Carpenter expressed her thanks from the committee to the Morris area community for their involvement in the search and commitment to UMM: "Over 115 evaluation forms were returned for each candidate, and the attendance at all venues was excellent. All the candidates were very impressed by our campus and commented favorably on our hospitality."

President Bruininks and Vice President Jones will now select UMM's next chancellor from a pool of very highly qualified individuals.

It is hoped that a UMM chancellor will be announced before the end of the current semester.

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