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'About 90' presidential candidates narrowed to 7

Bowers a finalist for U of Maine post

By CATHY KRADOLFER
Montana Kaimin News Editor

University of Montana President Richard Bowers is one of seven finalists for the job of president at the University of Maine at Orono.

Leonard Harlow, director of public information at the Maine school, confirmed yesterday that Bowers was chosen on Feb. 21 from a field of about 90 candidates as a finalist for the post at the Maine campus.

The committee hopes to make a final selection by the May meeting of its Board of Trustees, a board similar to the Montana Board of Regents. Bowers will be interviewed at the university sometime in the next two months.

Bowers, whose one-year contract with the Board of Regents will expire June 30, 1980, said in an

interview yesterday that he did not apply for the position but was nominated for it last fall when the University of Maine began accepting applications for the post.

Bowers said that he did not withdraw his name from consideration for the post when notified of his nomination because he considered it in his "professional interest to look at other available opportunities."

In a hand-written, photocopied statement Bowers said he prepared after being notified of his selection as a finalist in February, he said he may look at other opportunities this year or in the future. But he added that does not imply that he wants to leave the University of Montana.

He said his being a candidate for the presidency is "not an unusual

situation."

Bowers said he has been nominated for positions before but has always withdrawn his name from consideration. In attempting to fill vacancies at universities, search committees often ask for nominations from alumni, for example, as well as for applications.

Bowers said he was nominated for the position by "someone I would rather not name."

Last spring, during a meeting at which Bowers was questioned about the possibility of leaving UM for another job, he told the regents that he did not intend to apply for jobs elsewhere.

When asked yesterday if anything had happened in the last

year to make him consider the job in Maine, Bowers said:

"I've served one more year as president of this university." He added it had been a "busy year."

Bowers said that being nominated for the position does not mean he is actively seeking employment elsewhere. But when asked if he had applied to other schools, Bowers said that he "would not want to say where" and refused to comment further.

Harlow said that Allan Vannini, director of development and executive director of the UM Foundation, had been notified of Bowers' selection as a finalist Feb. 21.

Contacted by telephone yesterday, Vannini, whose job

includes supervising Information Services, said that he had not been notified of Bowers' selection as a finalist.

The head of the University of Maine's 21-member search committee said yesterday that he talked to the finalists in February and asked them then to make a definite commitment to come for interviews in the spring. James Horan, professor of political science, said he told the finalists that once they agreed to come for an interview, their names would be made public.

Bowers said he has told very few people involved with UM about his selection as finalist and had

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UM PRESIDENT RICHARD BOWERS

Reply outlines reasons

The following article is the complete text of University of Montana President Richard Bowers' prepared statement on his status as a finalist for the presidential post at the University of Maine at Orono.

Bowers released the statement to a Kaimin reporter yesterday, saying he had prepared it in February and was waiting to release it "when and if" anyone inquired.

From time to time, throughout my career in higher education I have been a candidate for various positions. This is normal if one is interested in professional advancement and new challenges. Thus my being a candidate for the presidency of the University of Montana is not an unusual situation. I did not apply for the position but was nominated for it and asked by the University of Maine if I would agree to be a candidate.

I am flattered that I am one of the finalists and believe that I should at least learn more about the professional opportunities at the University of Maine. Consequently, I have accepted their invitation to visit the University of Maine sometime this spring.

It may be that I will be asked to look at other opportunities this year, or in the future, and in some cases I will do so. This does not imply that I am seeking to leave the University of Montana. The University of Montana is an outstanding university and certainly one of the best public universities, if not the best public university, in the entire country in terms of the quality of education it provides its students. Consequently, it is professionally and personally very rewarding for me to serve as its president.

My fervent hope is that should I continue to serve in this capacity, I will be able to continue to provide the leadership that will enable the university to maintain the high quality educational programs it has developed over the past 80 years.

—special edition—

montana kaimin

Wednesday, March 12, 1980 Missoula, Mont. Special Edition

Maine announcement surprises faculty, students, administrators

By EILEEN SANSOM
Montana Kaimin Senior Editor

AND
CATHY KRADOLFER
Montana Kaimin News Editor

University of Montana faculty, student leaders and administrators expressed surprise yesterday at news that UM President Richard Bowers is one of seven finalists for the position of president of the University of Maine at Orono.

Of the seven people contacted by the Kaimin last night, only Patricia Douglas, vice president for fiscal affairs, had been told by Bowers that he was being considered for the position. Douglas said Bowers called her last night.

Departing ASUM President Cary Holmquist and University Teachers' Union President James Walsh said they had heard rumors that Bowers was being considered for another position.

Except for Douglas, Vice President of Academic Affairs Donald Habbe and Walsh, all those interviewed said they thought that Bowers being considered as a

who resigned Feb. 8, said that Bowers' status as a finalist "comes as a complete surprise." He added that his reaction "is what you would expect after spending a lot of time and effort to put pressure on him (Bowers) to resign."

Woodbury said that the announcement of Bowers' candidacy

in the position," Solberg said of Bowers' decision not to withdraw from final consideration.

Solberg said there are "no indications" that Bowers is less committed to the university because he is in the running for the post.

"It's maybe a good thing," Cary

'Well, I think he's outlived his usefulness here.'—Dave Curtis, newly elected ASUM president.

for a presidential position at Maine would improve faculty morale.

He also said that the announcement would not impair Bowers' ability to work with the faculty because the president's contact with the faculty has been minimal in the past.

Richard Solberg, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said that because of the recent Faculty Senate "no confidence" vote in Bowers, Bowers' position as a finalist for the post at the University of Maine would improve faculty morale.

Holmquist, former ASUM president, said of Bowers being considered for the University of Maine post.

But, Holmquist said, "I would hope he would stay here through the Legislature" so that Bowers could defend UM's budget during the next session.

"I really enjoyed working with him," Holmquist said. But "people are looking for a change. It probably would be good."

Holmquist said that Bowers "probably should have said something" about his status as a finalist for the position after the names were made public by the University of Maine.

"Well, I think he's outlived his usefulness here," Dave Curtis, newly elected ASUM president, said of Bowers' decision.

However, Curtis said that in his recent first-hand experience with Bowers, the president "performed really well for the university."

In conversations with students, Curtis said that although there is

• Cont. on back.

'My reaction is what you would expect after spending a lot of time and effort to put pressure on him to resign.'—George Woodbury, former president of the Faculty Senate.

finalist for another position would improve faculty and student morale at UM.

Following are the comments of those interviewed:

George Woodbury, former chairman of the Faculty Senate

He said, however, it would not hurt the faculty's decision to work with Bowers because "the welfare of the students is far more important than who is president at any given time."

"I'm sure that he's still interested

Bowers proliferates 'cloak of secrecy'

"Despite persistent speculation to the contrary, University of Montana President Richard Bowers said Thursday that he is not seeking employment elsewhere. . .

"... When asked if he is keeping an eye out for other jobs, he replied, 'If the Board (of Regents) renews my contract for next year, I'll be here.' He said he does not intend to apply elsewhere."

—The Missoulian
April 7, 1979

Last summer, the Board of Regents did renew Richard Bowers' contract, which is now due to expire June 30.

Yet sometime in fall of 1979, Bowers was nominated as a candidate for the presidency of the University of Maine at Orono.

Nominating candidates for positions at universities and colleges is a common practice, but the nominee is always left with the option of turning down the nomination and withdrawing his or her name from consideration for the post.

But Bowers did not turn down the nomination. And when notified that he was a finalist and given the choice to withdraw, Bowers did not. Instead, he agreed to an interview at the University of Maine, as did the other finalists.

This development seems, at the least, rather odd in light of Bowers' apparent commitment to UM.

It becomes even odder yet when the meat of this information must come from the University of Maine — rather than from Bowers — and that an anonymous source must call long distance to inform the Kaimin that the UM president is a finalist for the presidency of another university.

It is not a question of whether Richard Bowers has the right to seek employment elsewhere — administrators and faculty in higher education often are drawn elsewhere to new challenges, higher pay or more desirable working conditions. Bowers has every right to take part in this practice.

But why must Bowers and the UM administration keep this information under wraps? Why must he keep a prepared statement, explaining his position, buried on his desk until a reporter asks him about it?

Why does he say that his finalist position "does not imply that I am seeking to leave the University of Montana," and then accept the invitation to an interview in Orono, Maine, this spring? Why must Bowers comment so ambiguously about such an allegedly straightforward practice?

Why must such a clandestine atmosphere hang over Main Hall?

No one answer exists for all of these questions. Only one man can answer

them, and that man, as has been his habit in the past, has waited until the last possible minute to release an ambiguous, pre-written statement about an important development that he has been aware of for some time.

A university president, the "leader" of an institution, should be conducting duties and activities relating to his job in an open, honest manner. He should not fear criticism or misinterpretation of his acts — it is to be expected.

The administration of this university apparently feels that the way to improve UM's "tarnished" image is to cover any possibly negative developments at the university with a cloak of ambiguity and secrecy.

This is no way to improve an image. It creates only a facade. Secrecy and evasiveness imply that something is wrong, something is being concealed because of fear of its effect on public opinion.

No one doubts that some crucial things are awry at UM — decreasing enrollment, faculty cuts, a tightening economy and budget and a decline in student and faculty morale that borders on despair.

But the situation becomes even worse when the administration persists in secrecy, for example:

- when the "leader" doesn't reveal that he is a finalist for another job.
- when he does not even notify professors, until it occurs, that their positions are under consideration for elimination.
- when a reshuffling of top employees in the admissions office comes as a "complete shock" to those involved.

John Milton said back in 1644 that given a free and open contest, truth will always overcome falsehood.

The cornerstone of a university is its philosophy of teaching its students to function in an atmosphere of openness and honesty, which allows criticism, new ideas and intelligent compromise to flourish.

This atmosphere must also encompass the administration.

Mike Dennison

montana
Kaimin

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Bowers . . .

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prepared the statement about his selection "not as a press release but to have ready when and if someone asked me about it."

He said he did not feel obligated to tell the Board of Regents or Commissioner of Higher Education John Richardson about his decision to be a candidate for the job. The regents and Richardson will be evaluating in May his term as president of UM.

"It's standard procedure in any job applications not to inform your employer you are looking at other options," Bowers said. "Looking at other opportunities is my option."

Shelley Hopkins, student member of the Board of Regents, said the regents had heard rumors that Bowers was being considered in Maine but were not told by Bowers that he might be considering another job.

I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.

—Isaac Newton

Hopkins said that Bowers is not obligated to tell the regents or the commissioner that he is looking for another job. She added, though, that she "would prefer to know when one of the presidents is on the final list for a job."

"That, to me, means he is actively and seriously considering work elsewhere."

Ted James, chairman of the Board of Regents, said he learned that Bowers was a finalist for the position at Monday's regents meeting in Helena.

"He's an adult; that's his choice," James said in a telephone interview last night. "People in his position are always looking for jobs elsewhere."

Horan said that the person selected as president at Maine would probably be expected to take office in September. Bowers' contract does not contain a requirement that he give more than a 30-day notice when leaving his job.

Salary for the position is around \$50,000 — Bowers now makes \$44,000.

Bowers said the University of Maine at Orono, which is the largest of seven schools in the Maine university system, would

provide a "more comprehensive" job opportunity. The school's enrollment is about 11,600 — compared to 8,574 at UM, and it has a faculty of about 500. Bowers would be in charge of the university at Orono as well as Bangor Community College.

The university is similar to UM in that it has both a liberal arts curriculum and several professional schools.

The six other finalists for the positions are: Kenneth Allen, acting president of the University of Maine since June; Frederick Hutchinson, vice president for research and public service at the University of Maine; Richard Butwell, vice president for academic programs at Murray State College in Kentucky; David Kessler, director of academic informational systems at Purdue University in Indiana; Robert Quinn, dean of Commonwealth campuses at Pennsylvania State University; and Paul Silverman, president of the research foundation at State University of New York.

The selection committee is made up of faculty, students administrators, alumni and trustees and will make the final recommendation to the trustees.

Summer reservations ready

University of Montana students can reserve space in summer session courses during Spring Quarter registration.

Carol Ann Russell, summer programs manager, said any UM student registered for Spring Quarter may reserve a place in any summer course except those administered by the Center for Continuing Education. These exclusions are denoted as pre-session and supplementary courses and lack call numbers in the summer listings.

Russell said the reservation is not registration. Students must

still notify the registrar by May 15 that they plan to attend summer session and pick up registration material in the Treasure State Dining Room on the first day of summer session.

The reservation is only good for the first day of class, Russell said, so students must show up on the first day and get the professor's signature on the registration form.

The center will have a table with summer schedules and the reservation forms in the foyer of the fieldhouse at Spring Quarter registration. Students may fill out the forms at the table or return them to the center in Main Hall 125.

Surprise . . .

• Cont. from p. 1.
no "real antagonism" toward Bowers, "students who are deeply concerned about the university aren't very confident about the role Bowers is playing."

Although Bowers is legally bound to give only 30 days notice of any plans to leave his position at UM, it would be "more considerate (of Bowers) to give us more warning than that."

Habbe said he was unaware that Bowers had been selected as a finalist.

"You caught me by surprise," Habbe said. "I can't really say much else."

He did say that he would "regret very much if President Bowers leaves the university — I believe he's a good president."

Douglas said that Bowers had "just called" her last night and that she hadn't thought about it enough to have a comment.

Walsh said that he was surprised but that he could not comment.