Dean Ross A. Williams to retire at the end of spring quarter

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations
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Dean Ross A. Williams of the Montana State University School of Forestry will retire at the end of spring quarter, President H. K. Newburn said.

During Dean Williams' 13-year administration, the school has maintained accreditation by the Society of American Foresters and has made progress in many areas, Dr. Newburn noted.

The school has raised academic standards, doubled the staff and increased the number of faculty members with the doctorate from two in 1949 to seven now. The curriculum has been diversified from four to 11 areas of specialization and degree offerings augmented by undergraduate degrees in both forestry and forest conservation.

During the dean's tenure, research has been stepped up and holdings of the Cooperative Forest and Conservation Research Library expanded. Forest nursery production has risen from 500,000 plants to 1,740,000 for the 1962 season. The nursery was moved in 1953 from its 60-acre campus site to its present 200-acre site.

Since Dean Williams' arrival in 1949, two field camps and research centers have been added to the school's physical plant, a student honor system has been inaugurated, a chapter of Xi Sigma Pi national forestry honorary has been established, and student loan rules have been liberalized and scholarship aid increased.

Dean Williams came to the University after a dozen years as regional forester for the Soil Conservation Service. Previously he had taught for 12 years at the New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse. He is a graduate of the MSU School of Forestry and holds a master's degree from Yale University. He is the author of technical articles, a past chairman of the Council of Forestry School Executives and a member of many professional societies.

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