

O'Rourke to head new rural ed at university

Dr. Patrick J. O'Rourke has been appointed acting chancellor for community colleges, extension and rural education at the University of Alaska.

O'Rourke, campus president of Kuskokwim Community College in Bethel, was named this week by new University of Alaska President Neil D. Humphrey.

The university regents last June 28 adopted a reorganization plan placing all 10 of the university's community colleges in a new community college division headed by a chancellor. A vice chancellor for extension and rural education would report to this chancellor.

Humphrey, in his reorganization proposal presented to and unanimously approved by the regents Oct. 1, said he would appoint an acting chancellor immediately, to implement the regents' community college reorganization plan at the earliest time.

He said recruitment for a permanent chancellor for this division will now begin and he hopes to fill the position by next March.

O'Rourke will move to Fairbanks by Nov. 1 and until then will perform his new duties at Bethel, the president said. He will also remain campus presi-

dent at the college until the move.

O'Rourke has a doctorate in educational psychology and higher education administration conferred by the University of Connecticut last February. He has an M.S. degree from Indiana State University and B.A. from St. John's University in New York.

O'Rourke founded Kuskokwim Community College in October 1972, taking on that responsibility following two years on the Fairbanks campus as director of the Upward Bound Program, a program which assisted students primarily from rural Alaska to

make the transition to university life.

He first came to Alaska in 1964 to take a position as English teacher at Bethel High School. He took leave in 1967-68 to work on a master's degree in educational psychology and on his return to the high school served as a guidance counselor until moving to Fairbanks.

The reorganization, and Humphrey's own appointment by the Board of Regents as university president followed the disclosure of severe financial and administrative difficulties throughout the university system last winter.

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The Board of Regents, meeting on the university campus, also completed their review of the university's working budget for 1977-78 and gave it their appro-

val. This budget and other reorganization recommendations--requested by the legislature--was to be submitted to the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee Oct. 5.

"Additional time for consultation and reflection would be desirable," said the new university president in presenting his reorganization recommendations to the regents. "However, it is not available and a recommendation must be made at this time in order that we are ready to meet with the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee on Oct. 5."

Organizational changes should

"be limited at this time," he said. "I believe that for the present we should stay as close as possible to the present, already approved patterns and work hard to improve the quality of administration."

Under his plan there are four basic line units, or divisions, each headed by a chancellor, for the delivery of services to the people of the state--University of Alaska, Fairbanks; University of Alaska, Anchorage; University of Alaska, Juneau (formerly University of Alaska, Southeast); and the Division of Community Colleges, Extension and Rural Education.