

Humphrey resigns as head of UA, cites legislative interference

The future of the University of Alaska is once again in doubt. UA President Neil Humphrey submitted his resignation to the Board of Regents Dec. 16 after four months in office. The text of his letter of resignation follows:

"I respectfully submit my resignation as President of the University of Alaska and ask that it be effective December 31, 1977. After three months of exceptionally hard work by my staff and me, I conclude that the financial and administrative problems of the University are not correctable at the present time and in the present context.

"The University of Alaska has, unfortunately, been very poorly administered in recent years. The evidence of this is abundant. The reaction of the State Legislature is so severe that instead of prodding the University to improve--as I assume was intended--it makes it nearly impossible to correct the problems and still run a University System. The problems of Legislative interference are compounded by the serious divisions between the community college faculty and their union on the one hand and the three University campuses on the other. Added to this is the fact that there are way too many administrative units for such a small number of full-time equated students and the geographic animosities are relatively high.

"I regret that I was not able to sufficiently correct this situation to enable us to face the Legislature with any degree of self-confidence in our data, our methods, and our conclusions. There simply was not time and staff to correct these problems despite heroic efforts by many, many people. My contacts with the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee and especially its staff, convinces me that they will do further violence to the University due to the lack of progress. The fact that a major reason more progress was not made is due to their actions will undoubtedly not be accepted by them.

"I wish the University of Alaska well but I am not willing to take further responsibility for such a totally politicized institution. I sincerely thank you and the entire Board for your support and your very hard work in trying to correct this

situation."

Humphrey came to the UA after a term as president of the University of Nevada system. It was hoped he would be able to put the financially and administratively troubled university back on its feet.