

RESOLUTION

concerning

THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM PRESIDENT  
FOR  
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

June 13, 2003

WHEREAS, Michael J. Adanti has retired as president of Southern Connecticut State University effective June 1, 2003 and has agreed to a temporary reappointment for a period of twenty (20) days ending June 27, 2003, and

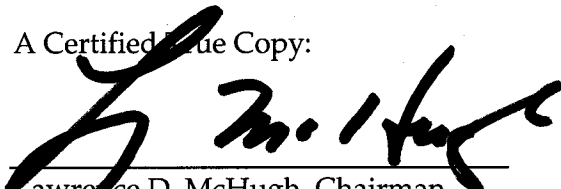
WHEREAS, A search will commence to select a president for Southern Connecticut State University, and

WHEREAS, A new president will not be selected immediately following President Adanti's departure, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Dr. J. Philip Smith is named Interim President effective June 28, 2003, and shall continue in that assignment until the new president begins service, and be it further

RESOLVED, That during the service of Dr. Smith as Interim President of Southern Connecticut State University, the bi-weekly salary rate shall be \$7,428.66 (annualized \$193,888).

A Certified True Copy:

  
Lawrence D. McHugh, Chairman

**ITEM**

Appointment of an Interim President for Southern Connecticut State University

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

President Michael J. Adanti retired as president of Southern Connecticut State University and will be leaving this position on June 27, 2003. A search for a new president is underway, however it is not anticipated that a president will be appointed until early in 2004. It is therefore necessary to name a person to be interim president until such time as a candidate approved by the Board of Trustees can assume the duties of the presidency.

After careful deliberation, the Executive Committee of the Board is recommending that Dr. J. Philip Smith be appointed as Interim President. Dr. Smith recently retired as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Southern Connecticut State University. Dr. Smith began his 38-year tenure at Southern as a professor of mathematics in the fall of 1965. He eventually become chairman of that department and also served as the first director of Southern's Honors College, which was created in 1982.

In 1986, Smith was promoted to dean of the School of Arts and Colleges, a post he held until 1998. After service as Interim Vice-President for Academic Affairs, he was appointed to the permanent position in May 2000.

Dr. Smith graduated with a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College in 1962, majoring with honors in mathematics, and two years later earned a master's degree in mathematics from Stanford University. He later earned a Ph.D. from Columbia University's Teachers' College.

The interim president at Southern must not only be capable of providing stability to the institution during this period of time but also of continuing the forward momentum of the many important initiatives of the Board that have been put in place by President Adanti. The Executive Committee is confident that Dr. Smith will provide that stability and momentum.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the appointment of Dr. J. Philip Smith as Interim President of Southern Connecticut State University.



Dean Golembeski

06/10/03 03:18 PM

To: Sysoff-L

cc:

Subject: SCSU President

For Immediate Release

06/10/03

Contact:

Joe Musante, Public Affairs, (203) 392-5073

## **ORANGE RESIDENT TAPPED TO BECOME INTERIM SCSU PRESIDENT**

*Academic VP J. Philip Smith Expected to Be Named on Friday*

NEW HAVEN -- Lawrence D. McHugh, chairman of the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees, will recommend to the board Friday that J. Philip Smith be named interim president of Southern Connecticut State University.

The board's Executive Committee has unanimously recommended that Smith, SCSU's vice president for academic affairs, fill the temporary vacancy left by the retirement of Michael J. Adanti, who will leave Southern June 27 after 19 years as president. Smith will become interim president June 28 and will serve in that role during the duration of a nationwide search for a permanent successor, a process that is expected to take 6-12 months.

"Phil Smith will be a tremendous leader for this university," Adanti said. "He is an individual of great intelligence, vision and integrity who has, over many years, displayed both his dedication to Southern and his commitment to academic excellence. He is the perfect choice to advance our mission of providing the very best in public higher education."

Smith, a resident of Orange and SCSU's chief academic officer since 1998, takes the helm at a time of surging enrollment, new degree programs (including the university's first doctorate), and a \$230 million construction program that is transforming the campus.

"I've been associated with Southern since 1965, and over those years there has been a lot of change," Smith said. "But never has there been a more exciting period to be at Southern and to witness the progress of change than now. It's an honor and a privilege to be offered this position at this time."

McHugh said the Executive Committee wanted a strong leader who could step in immediately and build on the outstanding leadership and momentum that SCSU has realized in recent years under Adanti.

"Phil's knowledge of Southern and its mission is second to none," McHugh said. "Also, he has the ability, the intelligence, the integrity and the passion to guide Southern until a new president is selected. The committee expects a very smooth and successful transition period under his guidance."

Smith, 63, follows in the footsteps of his father as president of a CSU campus. J.

Eugene Smith was president of Eastern Connecticut State University from 1948 to 1966. The new library at ECSU was recently named in his honor.

Smith began his 38-year tenure at SCSU as a professor of mathematics in the fall of 1965. He eventually became chairman of that department and also served as the first director of the university's Honors College, which was created in 1982.

In 1986, he was promoted to dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, a post he held until 1998, when Anthony Pinciario, who was then vice president for academic affairs, died suddenly. Smith was asked to step in on an interim basis and was later named vice president for academic affairs in May 2000 after a nationwide search. He was scheduled to retire June 27, but will now stay on at SCSU until a new president is selected.

Smith graduated with a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College in 1962, majoring with honors in mathematics, and two years later earned a master's degree in mathematics from Stanford University. He planned to enter the business field upon graduation, but opted instead to become a teacher after he helped teach a graduate level math course at Stanford. He later would earn a Ph.D. from Columbia University's Teachers' College.

CSU Chancellor William J. Cibes noted Smith's "tremendous commitment to higher education and Southern Connecticut State University."

"He is both respected and liked, on and off the Southern campus," Cibes said. "He also understands the strategic direction Southern has undertaken and has the capacity to tackle the challenges that lie ahead. I look forward to working closely with him as he leads the university in its continuing pursuit of excellence."

The search for a permanent successor to Adanti will be conducted by a Board of Trustees' Search Committee and an SCSU Advisory Committee. They will be assisted by a national higher education search firm. The final appointment of the president will be decided by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

While Smith will lead the university as interim president, other top level transitional appointments have also been made. Adanti has named Ellen Russell Beatty, associate vice president for academic affairs, to serve as interim vice president for academic affairs. Beatty has also been the director of faculty development and formerly served as coordinator of the graduate nursing program. She lives in Milford.

Adanti also has named Richard Farricielli, dean of student affairs since 1999, as interim vice president for student and university affairs. He fills the vacancy left by the retirement of David Pedersen. Farricielli has served in various capacities at SCSU during the last 32 years, including as director of housing and director of financial aid. He lives in Milford