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Hawkins Praises Search Committee Choice

The September announcement of the resignation of MSC President Thomas H. Richardson marked the beginning of a search to last nine months and 600 candidates, for a person to succeed him. That search came to a close when the MSC Board of Trustees and the NJ Board of Higher Education approved the appointment of Dr. David Dickson as MSC's fifth president.

Dr. W. Lincoln Hawkins, Board chairman, explained the purpose of the search as being "to choose that person who seemed most likely to fill the role of college president." Hawkins stated that the search committee looked for a person with a very strong academic background. He called this characteristic important to continue the development of the college "into a broad-based liberal arts college."

Administrative abilities in colleges similar to MSC were also considered. Dickson, in addition to his current position as dean of current and developing education at the State University of Stony Brook, has served as vice president for academic affairs at Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Mich.

Hawkins said, however, that more important than these qualities is the ability "to relate well to the college as we understand Montclair State to be."

While Dickson does not officially take office until Sept. 1, August will serve as a transitional period between presidents. Hawkins called this period "a blessing." He explained that Jersey City State College is currently involved in a frantic search to find a successor to their president, Dr. James Mullin, who is also stepping down in August. The Board chairman said that the MSC search committee, having completed its own search is presently aiding JCSC in its effort.