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UPDATE

THE SEARCH PLAN FOR A NEW PRESIDENT

By John E. Jacob

When President James E. Cheek announced his retirement on April 22, 1989, the Board of Trustees authorized me to appoint a Presidential Search Committee. The board has . . . approved the search plan, and I am pleased to explain to the members of the university community and the public the procedures that will be used by the Presidential Search Committee.

The committee is composed of the following members of the board, including a student, a faculty member and an alumna of the university:

Dr. James F. Tucker, *chairman*

The Honorable John R. Dellenback

Dr. Elaine T. Eatman

Dr. Marvin M. Fisk

The Honorable Frankie M. Freeman

Dr. John E. Jacob

Mr. Harry D. Garber

Dr. Thaddeus Garrett, Jr.

Mr. Darrin P. Gayles

Mr. Richard D. Parsons

Mr. John L. Procope

Mrs. Clarice D. Walker

Dr. Charles D. Watts

A Search Committee staff, formed to handle administrative details for the committee, will be directed by Dr. Marion Mann. Dr.

Constance S. Rotan, secretary of the Board of Trustees, is secretary of the Search Committee.

At the outset, it is important to say that, contrary to rumors that have been circulating, the Search Committee does not have any name or names under consideration at this time.

It is axiomatic that the first step in a presidential search should be a decisive statement concerning what the university seeks for the future of the institution — its mission, goals and objectives during the next decade and beyond. The Howard University Self-Study, 1989, which was completed by the faculty, staff, students, and trustees last month, is such a statement. The Board of Trustees has reaffirmed this mission and these goals and objectives as a blueprint for the future. From this blueprint the board has determined the criteria to be used in selecting a president.

The search will be marked by full disclosure of the process of the search and confidentiality of the names of the candidates. The committee favors an open search with frequent status reports and opportunities for representatives of the major segments of the campus community to be consulted, to offer nominations and to express their concerns. At their first meeting, members of the committee met first with a group of faculty members, then students, then alumni and with nonfaculty

staff employees. These groups expressed to the Search Committee their views concerning the future of the university and commented on the process which should operate in selecting the right leader.

The Search Committee will preserve strict confidentiality of the names of the candidates. I, as chairman of the Board of Trustees, will be the spokesman for any announcements emanating from the committee.

Nominations will be sought from within the university and from several hundred educators, education associations, alumni and friends throughout the United States. The faculty, students, staff and alumni are invited to express their views to the Search Committee in writing. All communications should be addressed to Dr. Marion Mann, Presidential Search Committee, P.O. Box 744, Howard University, Washington, D.C. 20059. The deadline for nominations is August 15, 1989.

The Search Committee will screen all of the applications during August, September, and October and will interview the best candidates. It is anticipated that the Board of Trustees will appoint the new president during the early part of 1990. □

The above statement by John E. Jacob, chairman of the Howard University Board of Trustees, was released on June 3, 1989.