Meet the Candidate: Michael L. Hanes

Education:
- B.S., Indiana University, 1970 Major: Biology
- M.S., Indiana University, 1972 Major: Educational Psychology
- Ph.D., Indiana University, 1973 Major: Educational Psychology; and Minors: Developmental Psychology & Research Statistics

Professional Experience:
- Assistant Dean for Research and Development; University of South Carolina
- Assistant Dean for Administrative & Academic Affairs for the University of South Carolina
- Full professor; University of South Carolina
- Research Associate; Institute for Child Study of Indiana University
- Research Associate, Institute for the Advanced Study of Communication Processes, University of Florida

Books:
- Language Patterns of Poverty Children
- Un Marco Abietro: A Guide for Teachers
- International Conference on Parents and Young Children
- Reading Improvements

Awards & Fellowships:
- Pi Lambda Theta Research Honorarium, Indiana University
- School of Education Fellowship, Indiana University
- Who's Who in the South & Southwest
- Who's Who in the World

Other Experiences:
- Member of the National Cross-Sponsor Task Force on Evaluation & Assessment, Follow Through Program
- Program Consultant, New Jersey Department of Education

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the reason for the process being so secretive is that all three candi- dates are currently serving presidents. Michael L. Hanes, the first of the candidates to visit, is president of Georgia Southwestern State University.

“If their campus were to find out their president was con- sidering leaving, they would be upset,” said Lang. “Therefore, the candidates have asked Rider to keep their name confidential until the last minute,—we are just honoring their request as a courtesy to them and their campus.”

Kawarsky acknowledges that the candidate has the right not to have the fact that he/she has applied for the position to become common knowledge prior to the decision to invite him/her to the campus for an interview. But “once the candidate has agreed to come to the campus, the advantages to that individual of confidentiality are outweighed by the damage to the process that such secrecy entails,” said Kawarsky. “It becomes impossible for anyone to ask the candidates truly pertur- rating questions.”

According to Kawarsky, the time allotted for faculty to make their decisions is not enough.

“Since the faculty have been asked to write their evaluations by 5 p.m. on the day of each interview, there is not enough time for reflection or comparison of the candidates,” said Kawarsky. “We are just honoring their request as a courtesy to them and their campus,” said Lang.

The goal of the Presidential Search Candidate Forums is to let the campus see the candidates and to let the candidates see the campus, according to Lang.

These student forums will continue on Tuesday, Feb. 11, and Thursday, Feb. 13, from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. in the Student Center Theater.

“Candidates receive an opportunity to speak for 10 to 15 min- utes with a question and answer session that follows for a total of 45 minutes,” said Lang. “Following each session, participants at the forums are asked to provide feedback about the candidate.

“We have three outstanding candidates who will be able to be interviewed by the students and campus community,” be Lang. “All three candidates are more than qualified and are current sit- ting presidents with Ph.D.s, were former instructors and adminis- trators and have all the right credentials.”

Hanes, who had a significant audience at all three forums, has compelling experience dealing with academics, as his professional background includes working as dean of the School of Education for West Chester University in Pennsylvania, direc- tor of Booker T. Washington Center, and executive director for the Presidential Commission on Undergraduate Education at the University of South Carolina, as well as many other endeavors. He has been the president of Georgia Southwestern since August 1996.

Hanes included a detailed cover letter with his information to John Kuhnle, the managing director of Korn/Ferry International, which is conducting the search.

In his letter, Hanes explained that his leadership is based on a breadth of experience, an in-depth technical knowledge in strategic planning and his ability to develop a campus consensus.

“I was pleased to learn that I was nominated for the presi- dency of Rider University,” said Hanes. “I am familiar with Rider University’s excellent reputation and I hope to bring experience, energy and enthusiasm to Rider.

“I am particularly enjoying my interaction with students, I also value and enjoy the external responsibilities of the presidency.”

At the faculty forum, Hanes said his number one priority would be to build “academic programs of distinction.” He listed his other top concerns as fostering community, developing a stable financial resource base and improving student recruitment, reten- tion and success.

Faculty members asked him about how he manages time, how much admissions standards can be raised at a tuition-driven institution, what experience he has had with private donors, and how he feels about openness—a question that turned into a brief dust-up over the secrecy of the search. He described his own style as open with lots of “walk-throughs” of classroom buildings.

On other subjects, Hanes said his current institution strongly supports international learning and the arts and has added online courses to its graduate programs. He said collegiate athletes should be “students first, athletes second.”

“Some of the Rider students I’ve had the pleasure to meet said that one of the biggest issues at Rider is with its student pride,” said Hanes at the student forum. “At my school, we set aside one day in the spring, when the weather is nice, when it’s not too cold or too hot, to celebrate our campus. We go around and pick up trash and clean up our campus. It’s our day to be proud.”

According to Joseph Hilton, public relations chair of the Student Government Association, for those students who are not seniors, a new president can impact every aspect of their college career.

“Unquestionably, the students of Rider University will be affected by the new leadership that will be installed this sum- mer, that is why it is so imperative that the students take part in the decision making process,” said Hilton. “I urge all of you to attend.”

On the other hand, Kawarsky and the AAUP have the under- standing that the whole process from the selection to the secrecy and the board’s failure to provide an opportunity for faculty to interview the candidates seems more appropriate for the corporate world rather than the academic.

“We [AAUP] feel that the faculty’s participation is being viewed as a formality rather than an integral part of the process,” said Kawarsky. “Ask the questions that need to be asked because our stake in this hiring position is great.”

Student evaluation forms are due in the President’s office in either hardcopy or electronic form (dstasolla@rider.edu) no later than 5 p.m. on the day following each forum. Faculty forms are due on the day of the forum.

Rider University Celebrates
Black History Month 2003
“African Americans in War and Peace”

Sunday, February 9
St. Benedict’s Prep Boys Choir, 7 p.m., Gill Chapel

Monday, February 10
Black Greek Letter Organization Information Session.
Delta Sigma Theta, 8 p.m., Daly’s Board Room

Wednesday, February 12
Film: “ Tuskegee Airmen” 7 p.m., Student Center Multiple Conference Room

Thursday, February 13
Reflections of a Tuskegee Airmen. Guest Speaker: Col. Tom Highsmith, 7 p.m., Student Center Fireside Lounge

Wednesday, February 19
The War on Terrorism: Understanding the Bases for Differences in Multination Perspectives. Presenter: Dr. Emmanuel Ahiya, 7 p.m., Multicultural Conference Room

Saturday, February 22
MLK Day of Service
RSVP: 609-896-5000 x. 7474

Sunday, February 23
BSU Gospel Fest, 6 p.m., Student Center Cavalla Room

Monday, February 24
Step Exhibitions, Phi Beta Sigma, 8 pm Student Center Theater

Wednesday, February 26
Closing Ceremony, “Time Line,” 7 p.m., Student Center Theater

Thursday, February 27
BSU/IGC Dance Party, 9 pm, Student Center Cavalla Room