

Jischke Named Interim President

While Banowsky goes with gratitude and best wishes, attention both on and off the campus is focused on his successor, most immediately on the interim president who will oversee the affairs of the institution while a national search for the University of Oklahoma's 11th president progresses — hopefully to be completed by June or July.

Interim President Martin C. Jischke has become one of the campus' most visible figures since becoming dean of the College of Engineering in 1981. His record as a teacher, researcher, administrator and faculty spokesman made him a popular choice as dean, and off campus he is liked and respected by alumni and supporters of engineering and the new Energy Center.

Sooner Magazine readers will remember Jischke from the Spring 1983 article, "The Hottest Team in Town," an account of the uniquely effective academic partnership he formed with fellow dean Francis G. Stehli of the new College of Geosciences in formulating the programs of the Energy Center.

Briefly, Jischke's University record includes the following:

—member of the OU faculty since 1968;

—chairman of the OU Faculty Senate at age 33;

—recipient of the Regents Superior Teaching Award and a White House fellowship at 34;

—department chairman for aerospace, mechanical and nuclear engineering at 35;

—fifth dean of the 74-year-old College of Engineering at age 39;

—chairman of the task force in charge of initial planning for the new Energy Center;

—leading candidate to fill the vacant Norman campus provost's position at the time of his appointment as interim president.

What isn't included in this resume is equally encouraging to those Sooners unfamiliar with Jischke's reputation on the campus. Jischke is basically an optimist. He smiles a lot and laughs easily. His enthusiasm for his



Interim President Martin C. Jischke

work — whatever it happens to be at the moment — is contagious. He combines the best features of the academician and the salesman, and he works hard.

The lack of communication which exists between some members of the arts and humanities faculties and engineers in general does not hold true for Jischke, whose appreciation of the visual and performing arts is well known. He is well read, politically knowledgeable and active in civic and cultural affairs.

As dean of engineering, he has put together an active board of visitors of industry professionals and listens to their advice. He personally recruited a Dean's Council of \$500-a-year donors by spending every spare moment of his first months as dean on the telephone introducing himself to hundreds of alumni and industrial representatives. He fought for budget increases and added a number of outstanding young teachers and researchers to his faculty.

His activities on behalf of the Energy Center have involved him in a major University project of vital importance to all parts of the state and region and brought him into contact with the prime movers of both the public and private sectors.

Jischke is aware that the success of

an interim administration depends on its skill in moving forward in ways that promote the interests of the University without compromising the person who will succeed to the permanent presidency several months hence. The job is ticklish at best, requiring a great deal of diplomacy and maneuverability. He has promised the faculty, staff and regents, however, that he will "do everything possible to articulate the financial needs of the University to all who influence the state funding process . . . to take an aggressive role in soliciting private support . . . to devote as much time and energy as possible to create a positive environment on the campus."

The welfare of the University also will require the support of alumni and friends of the institution during the interim. A permanent president might be able to take his time becoming acquainted off the campus while getting comfortable in his new job. Jischke doesn't have that luxury. He must be able to provide instant leadership in a critical period in the University's history. Through constructive input, support in local communities and general good will, backers of the University can make Jischke's job much easier. In fact, one of the best things the interim president has going for him is the loyalty which its alumni body feels for the University of Oklahoma.

Jischke is no short-timer. He made his commitment to OU 17 years ago. "The people who make the difference in an institution are the people who hang in there," he told *Sooner Magazine* last year. One of his most vital tasks will be to convince OU's brightest and best to "hang in there" in the face of the obstacles which funding slashes have created, to hold the line until solutions can be found.

In that same magazine article, Frank Stehli described Jischke as "basically a problem-solver," someone who likes to "find out what's wrong and get it fixed." The opportunities for a problem-solver are almost unlimited at the University right now, and Jischke will need all the help he can get to fix them.

—CJB