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Special Edition

# inside OAKLAND

A newsletter for Oakland University colleagues

## Russi named OU president

### In an unexpected move, Board of Trustees appoints Russi as 5th OU president

In a historic resolution, Oakland University's Board of Trustees appointed Gary D. Russi university president, pending contract negotiations, at its regular bi-monthly meeting April 11.

The resolution, brought forward by trustee Louis R. Ross and approved by the board, read:

"Resolved, that the chairman of the Board of Trustees is authorized to extend an offer to Dr. Gary Russi to be the regular president of Oakland University and in consultation with the Finance and Personnel Committee and Office of the General Counsel will negotiate terms and conditions of employment subject to approval by the board at its next meeting, and be it further resolved that the board chairman is authorized to ask for a recommendation from the relevant faculty body concerning the award of academic rank and tenure if these items are changed from current status."

The board announcement ends a much-publicized presidential search process and removes the "interim" label from Russi's title.

Gary D. Russi becomes Oakland's fifth president. Past

presidents include Sandra Packard, Joseph E. Champagne and Donald O'Dowd. Durward B. Varner served as chancellor.

Before coming to Oakland, Russi served as vice president, Research and Strategic Planning, at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.

Russi was named OU's interim president January 10, 1995, while serving as OU's vice president, Academic Affairs, since July 1, 1993.

"I was surprised, pleased and honored all at the same time," Russi said of the trustees' action. "The past 15 months have been inspiring for me, and a tribute to the faculty and staff who have worked tirelessly to advance Oakland's new learning initiatives. I look forward to representing this great university and plan to spend even more time now talking with the Oakland community to work together to bring our strategic plan to full realization.

"I extend my profound thanks to colleagues and friends for their support, and ask that you continue to offer your ideas, your dedication and your hard work to make Oakland a better place for our students and community partners."



Gary D. Russi was named Oakland University's fifth president April 11.

During his 15-month tenure as OU's interim president, Russi quickly moved Oakland forward. He is credited with bringing to life OU's 10-year Strategic Plan.

Under Russi, Oakland has experienced:

- Record enrollment growth.
- Major campus construction.
- Historic articulation agreements with community colleges worldwide.
- New degree programs.
- Increased community and business partnerships.
- Implementation of formal academic assessment, legislative appropriations and distance learning initiatives.
- Greater emphasis on team building.

### breaking NEWS

#### What some OU board members said about Russi's appointment

"We've done everything a search committee wants to accomplish in the selection process. We have seen Dr. Russi working in 'real time' for the past 15 months, team building, managing the very business we are responsible for and achieving ambitious goals."

—Rex E. Schlaybaugh Jr.  
vice chair

"Dr. Russi's background was scrutinized in the not-too-distant past when he was hired as vice president. We have the best person for the job right in front of us."

—Louis R. Ross  
trustee

"I have seen firsthand how effective Gary Russi is with building Oakland's reputation and moving it forward. I have nothing but the utmost respect for his absolutely tireless dedication and hard work on behalf of this university."

—David T. Fischer  
chair