

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
STANFORD —

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Richard W. Lyman, a 46-year-old historian, today was named Stanford's seventh president.

His appointment, effective immediately, was announced by Board of Trustees President W. Parmer Fuller III, following a special meeting of the Board in San Francisco. The vote was unanimous.

The Trustees' decision marks the culmination of an intensive, nation-wide search by a special committee of the Board, aided by faculty, student, and alumni advisory committees and staff consultants.

The advisory groups sent individually addressed letters to faculty, students, and alumni, receiving more than 1,000 replies. These showed Lyman enjoyed the broadest support of any individual within every major constituency of the University, Fuller said.

As vice president and provost, Lyman has served as the University's second ranking academic officer since January 1967. He became acting president following the resignation of Kenneth S. Pitzer, which was announced June 25 and became effective Sept. 1.

Commenting on the new president, Fuller said: "We are indeed fortunate to have a man of his academic stature and administrative ability, thoroughly familiar with Stanford and capable of providing prompt, effective leadership for the entire University community."

Prof. David Hamburg, who served as chairman of the Faculty Advisory Committee, said that Lyman was their unanimous recommendation. In a letter circulated to all faculty members Thursday afternoon, the seven-man committee reported Lyman was the first choice of students, faculty, and alumni, both in the mail response from each group and in each advisory committee.

"Nowhere was the depth of support greater than among the faculty who, knowing intimately his virtues and his limitations, overwhelmingly wrote us of their desire that he be named president as soon as possible," the faculty committee said.

"We agree, for after investigating over 100 candidates, we concluded that there is no better potential president anywhere."

"Even Superman would need help in order to be a great president of Stanford in these times. The president must sustain his vision of the future while meeting current crises. As we ask Dick Lyman for leadership, we must give him our support."

The Associated Students Council of Presidents, the top four elected student body officers, said "We congratulate Dr. Lyman upon his appointment as Stanford's seventh president. In his former position as provost, he showed both the expertise and the desire so needed in filling this new post. We wish him all good fortune and look forward to working with him on matters concerning the students, the University and the community." Council members are Robert Grant, Patrick C. Shea, Adam Levin and Hal Mickelson. Grant and Shea headed the Student Advisory Committee.

The Stanford Alumni Association Executive Board, currently in session at its annual fall meeting at Fallen Leaf Lake, unanimously passed the following statement: "Dr. Lyman is both a scholar and an administrator who has a thorough grasp of the challenges facing Stanford. We are confident that he will meet the problems with firmness and fairness, and that he will lead the University to even greater heights of excellence."

"We congratulate him on his appointment as president of Stanford University and offer him our wholehearted support."

Prof. Pitzer said: "Dr. Lyman is exceedingly well qualified for the presidency and I wish him and Stanford every success."

Chancellor J.E. Wallace Sterling, under whom Lyman was appointed provost, enthusiastically endorsed the appointment as "a splendid choice and one which will be warmly received by the academic community and friends of Stanford everywhere."

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During the past year, Lyman has been actively considered for the presidency of five major Eastern private universities and colleges.

An expert on contemporary British history, he is the author of "The First Labour Government, 1924," a book which received widespread scholarly acclaim in Great Britain and elsewhere, and has served for many years as a special correspondent for *The Economist*. He keeps a typewriter by his desk to draft speeches and correspondence.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Swarthmore (A.B. 1947), Lyman holds two advanced degrees from Harvard (A.M. 1948; Ph.D. 1954). He taught at Harvard, Swarthmore, and Washington University, St. Louis, before joining the Stanford faculty as associate professor in 1958. For several years he has been the honorary curator of the British Labour Collection at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace.

A former Fulbright fellow (1951-52), he also received a Guggenheim fellowship and a grant-in-aid from the American Council of Learned Societies for research abroad in 1959-60. He was promoted to full professor in 1962 and named associate dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences in January 1964.

At that time, *The Stanford Daily* commented editorially that "Dr. Lyman is known to a great number of students as a man devoted to the broadening of the individual student and not to the manipulation of an amorphous mass far below him. His own scholarship, as evidenced by his classroom lectures, reveals a man who finds academic pursuits lively and relevant."

As provost, he has displayed an open style in his relations with students, faculty, and alumni.

A frequent writer of letters to *The Daily* he also initiated the practice of regularly exchanging views with student newsmen over campus radio station KZSU and with student representatives in appearances before the Student Senate.

For the past two years, he has played a key role in coping with campus unrest. After he authorized calling police to the campus for the first time May 1, 1969, Lyman told the Academic Council: "Any time it becomes necessary for a university to summon police, a defeat has taken place. . . . The victory we seek at Stanford is not a military victory; it is a victory of reason and the examined life over unreason and the tyranny of coercion." He received a standing ovation.

Lyman has been sharply criticized by alumni and student groups at both ends of the political spectrum. During the campus disturbances this spring, a roving band of vandals threw soft drink bottles filled with paint into his home.

In a series of talks with alumni across the country this spring, he said loss of public confidence in universities is threatening the very survival of high quality higher education.

Universities, he said, "must distinguish between removing the undesirable features of the old ivory tower and reducing the structure to a pointless rubble."

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Universities must provide internal order, he added. They "cannot lurch forward from one confrontation to another, because the direction will cease to be forward. . . . Society will find alternative institutions to do its highest level of thinking for it if universities cannot maintain peace for that kind of thinking to proceed."

Long interested in minority affairs, Lyman played a central role in implementing the University's decision in April 1968 to expand sharply recruitment of students from minority groups. Enrollment of black, chicano, and American Indian students has risen about four-fold (from about 175 to nearly 800 among 11,000), with student retention rates higher than the Stanford average.

During 1967-68, he flatly rejected requests from Students for a Democratic Society that the Central Intelligence Agency be barred from campus recruiting, saying "I can assure you that Stanford is not going into the business of thought control, on your behalf or anyone else's"

In 1968, he also was the first nationally prominent college administrator to criticize the so-called "anti-riot" amendments adopted by Congress, calling their language "so sweeping and so loose" that it could force universities "to engage in a major way in a business strongly resembling criminal investigation, risking the very climate of freedom which is the essential basis of the educational mission."

Both as a faculty member and an administrator, Lyman has served on committees concerned with such changes as the introduction of sectarian worship on campus and the severance of Stanford Research Institute from the University.

In a talk with the faculty following demonstrations against SRI in April 1969, Lyman said: "Defenses must be invoked against wanton, indiscriminate, and arbitrary actions designed to force University acquiescence in the views of any campus group. . . . No institution, not even a university, can continue indefinitely working in an atmosphere of coercion."

As an individual, he has expressed his personal opposition to the Vietnam War since 1965. This year he strongly condemned the Cambodian invasion in a personal telegram to President Nixon.

In a journal article published last year, Lyman said: "No matter what we do or how much, of course the student unrest will continue. The war, the misery of the ghetto, the hypertensive effects of the population explosion girdling the globe, the genuine difficulty that individuals in a modern mass society feel in carving out a small bit of turf to call their own—these and other troubles will keep our lives as academic administrators from turning peaceful overnight.

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"Liberal education would surely benefit if university administrators, particularly presidents, provosts and deans, were given periodic leaves of absence on one condition—that these be spent in liberal studies. . . .

"Every president and dean would then spend a term every so often reading Plato or T.S. Eliot, learning the rudiments of the history of architecture, or how to dissect and fully appreciate a Beethoven sonata.

"This would refresh their spirits and remind them in the most effective way possible of the central mission of liberal education. By demonstrating that the university could indeed function without them for a spell, this procedure also would be conducive to humility and greater peace of mind, no small benefits in this time of troubles "

Lyman, his wife, and their four children often spend a summer month vacationing on an island off the Maine coast.

In addition to his book on "The First Labour Government, 1924," published in London in 1957, Lyman is co-editor (with Prof. Lewis Spitz of Stanford) of a two-volume work on "Major Crises in Western Civilization," published by Harcourt, Brace and World in 1965.

A former member of the board of editors for the *Journal of Modern History*, he has contributed frequently to the *Journal of British Studies*, the *Political Science Quarterly*, and the *Annals of the American Academy*.

His memberships include the American Association of University Professors, the American Historical Association, the Conference on British Studies, and the Society for the Study of Labour History.

Lyman was born Oct. 18, 1923, in Philadelphia. He married the former Elizabeth Schauffler in 1947. Their children are Jennifer (1950), Holly (1952), Christopher (1955), and Timothy (1957).

Mrs. Lyman is president of the Mid-Peninsula Citizens for Fair Housing and chairman of the fair housing task force of the Stanford-Mid-Peninsula Urban Coalition. She also has helped organize local programs concerned with employment opportunities and continuing education for women.

A Swarthmore graduate, she was her future husband's first tutorial student there. "I paid him in records and hamburgers," she recalls. After their graduation and marriage, she did teacher training at the Shady Hill School in Cambridge while he studied at Harvard. She taught shop at Shady Hill prior to the birth of their first child.