

University of the District of Columbia

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April 20, 2005
Ser 05-018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former Virginia Education Secretary Tapped as University of the District of Columbia Board Chairman

Washington, D.C. — The Honorable James W. Dyke, Jr., former Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia and a Partner in the law firm of McGuireWoods LLP, was elected Chairman of the University of the District of Columbia's Board of Trustees at the Board's regular meeting Tuesday, April 19, 2005. Mr. Dyke will assume leadership of the Board at their June meeting, succeeding Professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., who announced his intention to resign yesterday following six years of service to the District's only public institution of higher learning.

Chairman-elect Dyke's broad legal practice covers corporate, legislative, education, voting rights, governmental relations and municipal law. Mr. Dyke, a Washington native, previously served as Virginia's Secretary of Education under former Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder, and was Domestic Policy Advisor to former Vice President Walter Mondale. In that capacity, he served as White House liaison to the District of Columbia during the Carter Administration. Secretary Dyke currently serves as a member of the State Council on Higher Education for Virginia where he chairs the Resources Committee. He is a graduate of Howard University and the Howard Law School.

“I’m honored to serve as Board Chairman for the District’s only public university. UDC has a unique mission and a special role to play in providing District citizens with access to higher education. I look forward to building on the strong foundation which exists to help President Pollard and our outstanding faculty move UDC to the next plateau of excellence. The recent NCATE accreditation of the School of Education and the successful reaccreditation visit by the Middle States evaluation team shows that UDC is moving aggressively in a positive direction. We must now focus on new challenges including increasing overall support for our students and faculty, enhanced funding and accountability for the university, implementation of the much needed capital program, assessing the effectiveness of all key university operations, and growing the role of the University of the District of Columbia Foundation.”

”On a personal note, as one born in the District, I’m humbled to assume this position because, my mother, the late Mattie Cooke Dyke, was a graduate of Miner Teachers College, one of the entities consolidated into UDC. She also was a public school teacher in the District for over 30 years. I see my role as Chair of the UDC Board as a way to honor her memory and give something back to the community that provided her with an education that in turn enabled me to accomplish whatever I’ve been able to do in life.”

“The University of the District of Columbia is fortunate to have Jim Dyke take the mantle of Board leadership,” said Dr. William L. Pollard, President of the University. “Although he’s only been on the board a few months, he’s become fully engaged in the affairs of the University. His professional credentials and leadership abilities make him the ideal person for this vital position.”

Mr. Dyke leads a slate of officers elected by the Board of Trustees that includes two trustees returning to previously-held positions of responsibility. Peter D. Rosenstein, a six-year member of the Board of Trustees, was re-elected Vice Chairman of the Board, a position he has held for the past three years. Mr. Rosenstein is President of PDR Associates.

Eugene Dewitt Kinlow, who has served three years as an alumni-elected member of the Board, was also returned to a position of leadership on the Board, being once again elected Secretary. Mr. Kinlow currently works for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as an Information Specialist.

Rita J. Kirshstein, who, along with Chairman-select Dyke, joined the Board of Trustees in January, was elected Board Treasurer. Dr. Kirshstein is a Managing Director in the Education and Human Development Program at the American Institutes for Research.

Chairman-select Dyke and the other Board officers will officially assume their duties at the Board of Trustees next meeting, which will be held in June.

The University of the District of Columbia is the sole public source for accessible, inclusive, affordable, and comprehensive public higher education in the District of Columbia and provides additional life-long learning opportunities. The University delivers quality instruction and uses student-centered approaches to empower and benefit both individuals and its local communities. The University, an urban land grant institution, is a very diverse community, a gateway to the world, and a significant investment engine for the District of Columbia. The University is located at 4200 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington, and is conveniently located at the Van Ness/UDC stop on the Red Line of Metro. For more information on other University activities, contact Mike Andrews, Senior Director for Communications and University Spokesman at (202) 274-5685 or visit the University's web site at www.udc.edu.