

Dr. McGill appointed to Columbia as President

February 2, 1970

Dr. William J. McGill has been appointed the 16th President of Columbia University. He will assume the presidency of the 216-year-old institution at a date to be determined but no later than September 1, 1970. The appointment was approved unanimously by the University Trustees (24 members) and announced today by William E. Petersen, Chairman of the Trustees.

A joint student-faculty presidential search committee which included members of the executive committee of the University Senate worked with the Trustees in selecting Dr. McGill. He will succeed Andrew W. Cordier, 68, who became the University's 15th President in August, 1969. Dr. Cordier stated then that he wished to hold the post for one year only. He has served a year as acting president following the retirement of Grayson Kirk in August, 1968.

Following is a statement from Chairman Petersen:

"I am delighted to welcome Dr. McGill back to Columbia. The Trustees are especially pleased with Dr. McGill's familiarity and affection for the University. We have found that he exhibits a profound sensitivity for the concerns of all segments of the institution-- students, junior and senior faculty, staff and alumni. This deep feeling for matters relating to the individual extends well beyond the confines of the campus and particularly into the vital area of community relations. This native New Yorker also displays a strong concern for the hope and goals of minority groups both on campus and off."