

William J. McGill named Chancellor of UCSD

June 21, 1968

Dr. William J. McGill, 46, Professor of Psychology and Chairman of the Academic Senate at the University of California, San Diego, was named Chancellor of the San Diego campus today by the University Board of Regents meeting at the University Medical Center in San Francisco.

McGill succeeds Dr. John S. Galbraith, UCSD Chancellor since 1964, who resigned the post to accept the Smuts Visiting Fellowship at Cambridge University, England, for the year 1968-1969.

McGill, who joined the UCSD faculty in 1965 as Professor of Psychology, has served as Chairman of the San Diego Division of the Academic Senate for the past year and was named Chairman-elect for 1968-69 of the Statewide Assembly of the Academic Senate. Because of his appointment as Chancellor, he will no longer serve in either the San Diego or Statewide Senate positions.

McGill was born in New York City on February 27, 1922. He received an A.B. degree from Fordham College in 1943, an M.A. degree from Fordham University in 1947 and a Ph.D. in experimental psychology from Harvard University in 1953. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Fordham. College in 1943.

He served for a year as Instructor at Fordham University, for a year as Teaching Fellow at Harvard University and for a year as Instructor at Boston College before becoming a staff member of the Lincoln Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1951. Three years later he was named Assistant Professor of Psychology at M.I.T.

In 1956 he joined the-faculty of Columbia University where he served as Assistant Professor (1956-58), Associate Professor (1958-60) and Professor (1960-65). He served as Chairman of the Department of Psychology at Columbia from 1960 to 1963.

McGill has made outstanding contributions in a variety of areas in quantitative psychology, particularly in information processing and mathematical psychology. He is highly regarded both as a theoretician and as an experimentalist and is considered as being at the forefront of the advancing knowledge of sensory mechanisms.

His contributions to mathematical psychology have also been in the areas of psychological scaling and psychophysics. A chapter of Stochastic Latency Mechanisms, written by McGill in the Handbook of Mathematical Psychology and published in 1963, is considered a distinct contribution to psychology.

He was elected to the Society of Experimental Psychologists in 1962, elected to the governing board of the Psychonomic Society in 1965 and to the Board of Trustees of the Psychometric Society in 1967. He is a member of Sigma Xi, the American Statistical Association, the Psychometric Society, the Biometric Society and the Society of Experimental Psychologists and is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He serves as Associate Editor for the Journal of Mathematical Society, Associate Editor of Perception and Psychophysics, Consulting Editor for the Psychological Bulletin and Consulting Editor of Psychometrika.

At the San Diego campus McGill has served as a member and chairman of the Committee on Educational Policy and as a member of the Academic Council of the Academic Senate and the Chancellor's Senate Council.

He is married to the former Ann Rowe and they have two children, Rowena, 18, and William, 13. They currently reside in La Jolla.