

01-77-07 PT. 2

Neil Humphrey

December 29, 1977

Paul McCarthy, interviewer

Fairbanks, Alaska

Dr. Humphrey talked about the contract between the university and SET for computer services. He recommended that the Board renegotiate the contract. He said they have until 1978 to decide if the university will continue with the contract or the university setting up their own work. He talked about the conflicts with the present system.

McCarthy asked about the structure of the diverse university. Humphrey talked about the community colleges in relation to the total university. He believes it has worked well in Fairbanks but not so in Anchorage. The community college must emphasize vocational-technical programs. Humphrey commented about the number of administrative units involved with the university. He believes the faculty and administration needs to come to some conclusions. The faculty has been too divided. If the university is to be improved it will be the faculty that does it. He believes the faculty can provide leadership and understanding. At this time there are too many units. Humphrey believes there should be shared governance. He discussed the presidency at the university. He said his views differ from his predecessors.

McCarthy asked about the Board of Regents. Humphrey talked about the Board of Regents. He said they are fair and dedicated and supportive of him. He asked about his relationship with the legislature. Humphrey said he has found some that are supportive and helpful. He commented about his disappointment with legislative relationships. He said he and his family were well received into Alaska. McCarthy asked about a comparison between Nevada and Alaska. Humphrey said Nevada made some changes to the university in 1967-68. He said the Nevada community is an open one.

McCarthy asked where the university needs to go now. Humphrey said there needs to be some house cleaning activities. [21:00 Hard to hear.] He said the faculty need to [be more involved]. They are the university. He commented about the changes that need to be worked on at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

McCartney commented on how impressed people have been with the low key way Humphrey came to the university and the way he has worked with the problem situation. Humphrey said he thinks the problem is ethical to a certain extent. He said the president is the chief executive officer of an institution. He thinks that the president sets the tone of the university.

Humphrey commented about some of the fringe benefits for the office of the president to be superfluous and interferes with his relationship with the faculty and the community.

Difficult to understand section.

McCarthy asked Humphrey about separating the statewide administration from the local campus. Humphrey said he thinks the relationship is doing very well here. He said it was resolved quickly in Nevada when he was there.

Humphrey talked about funding of indirect costs. He discussed about the importance of the library to the university and the status of faculty for the librarians.

Humphrey talked about how politicized the unresolved problems the university has. He sincerely hoped that the next president will have a better opportunity to resolve the problem.