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For Immediate Release

Neale H. Tayler named president
of Wilfrid Laurier University

Dr. Neale H. Tayler, academic vice-president of Wilfrid Laurier University since 1972, will become president and vice-chancellor of the university Aug. 1.

He succeeds Dr. Frank C. Peters, head of the university since 1968, who is retiring.

Announcement of Dr. Tayler's selection was made by William H. Timmis, chairman of the university's board of governors, after Dr. Tayler had received the approval of both the board and the university's senate.

The new president was chosen by the presidential search and selection committee over others from across Canada, United States and New Zealand who had applied or been nominated for the position.

Dr. Tayler, a native of Windsor, joined the WLU faculty in 1962, coming from the University of Toronto where he was chairman of the graduating departments of modern languages.

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He holds both master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Toronto and has done postgraduate work at the National University of Mexico and Laval University, Quebec City. He spent the 1958-59 academic year in Spain and France conducting research on a Humanities Research Council grant.

In the 1974-75 academic year, Dr. Tayler served as acting president during the sabbatical of Dr. Peters.

He has also represented the university and served on several committees of the Council of Ontario Universities and chaired one. From 1951 to 1958 he was a trustee on the North York board of education.

Dr. Tayler came to WLU to head its department of romance languages and became the first chairman of the university's graduate studies program when it was established in 1963. He held the post of dean of the faculty of arts and science from 1968 to 1972.

"I fully realize that I am assuming the presidency at a difficult time for all Ontario universities," Dr. Tayler said. "But I am hopeful that Wilfrid Laurier University can continue to maintain its high level of acceptance among students by offering programs that meet their needs in rapidly changing times."

He said the fact that WLU was the only Ontario university this year to have an increase in applications for the fall should not lead to complacency.

"But, with the support of my colleagues, I plan to work to maintain this university's position of excellence. I look forward to meeting the problems of what has been referred to as the new reality in Ontario education."