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For immediate release

Dr. John A. Weir named president
of Wilfrid Laurier University

Dr. John A. Weir, 51, a member of Wilfrid Laurier University's faculty since 1965 and academic vice-president since 1978, becomes president of the university Aug. 1 for a five-year term.

He will succeed Dr. Neale H. Tayler, president since 1978, who will retire. Dr. Tayler has served Wilfrid Laurier as professor, dean, academic vice-president and president. He came to Laurier from a senior position at the University of Toronto in 1962.

Dr. Weir's appointment was approved by the university's board of governors and senate and announced by Robert McIntosh of Brantford, chairman of the board.

The new president was recommended by a selection committee consisting of the board of governors, faculty and the student body, after a search that included many applicants from across Canada.

Dr. Weir, a native of Charlottetown, P.E.I., joined Laurier's school of business and economics after teaching for four years at the University of Manitoba. He is married and has four teen-age sons.

He received his doctorate in economics from the University of Notre Dame in 1964, his master's in business administration from the University of Western Ontario and a bachelor of commerce degree from St. Dunstan's University, Charlottetown.

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Dr. Weir served for ten years as chairman of economics at Laurier and was president of the faculty association in 1968-69. He also served on the board of governors, the university senate, and a number of major committees. For three years he was a member of the Council of Ontario Universities.

"As president, I hope to pursue, in conjunction with my colleagues, this university's objectives of good teaching and sound scholarship," he said. "I am proud of the achievements of Wilfrid Laurier University and will work to ensure that we maintain our position as a first-class university."

He says that Laurier, along with other universities, faces difficult problems in the 1980s due to continuing underfunding coupled with an ever-increasing application rate from well-qualified students.

"These will not be easy times but our sound current financial situation and assistance from our fund drive should enable us to further pursue our objectives of academic excellence."