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An Award Winning
Newspaper
By Students,
For Students.



THE AVION

SPECIAL EDITION
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A Division of the Student Government Association

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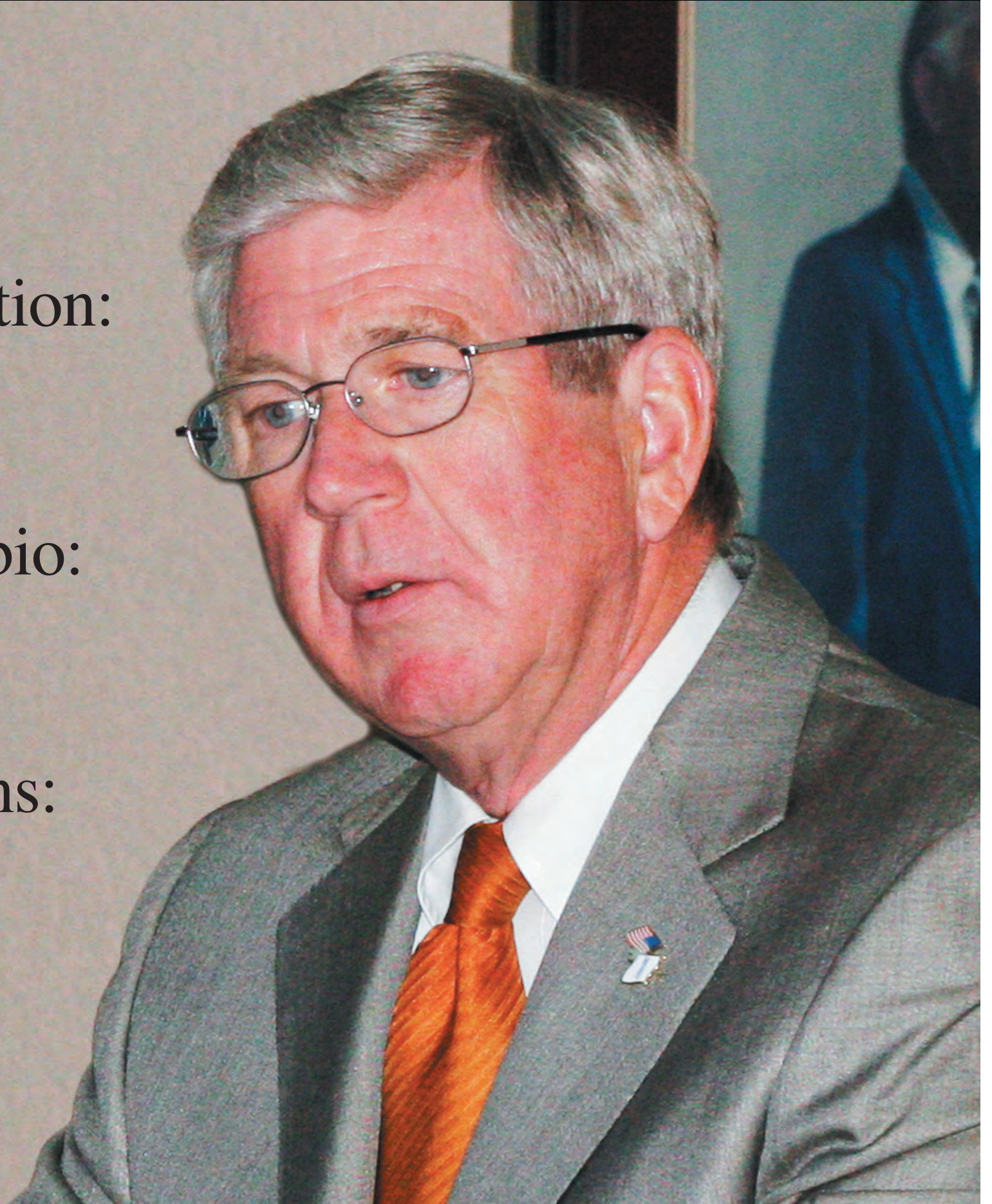
President Ebbs resigns

Cites achieved goals, time for family as reasons for decision

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President Ebbs announces resignation

Jonathan Mettin
Editor-in-Chief

Embry-Riddle President Dr. George Ebbs announced his resignation at a press conference held in the Spruance Hall atrium Wednesday afternoon.

Ebbs will vacate his position on Nov. 30, after which Provost Dr. John Johnson will take over the position until the Board of Trustees appoints a permanent replacement.

Ebbs said that the Board of Trustees, which had its semesterly meeting at the Prescott campus last weekend, had a "remarkable" meeting where they discussed Embry-Riddle's priorities and how to achieve them in the future.

"I applaud their courage to make needed changes to Embry-Riddle's approach to governance," Ebbs said, "and I understand their desire to rethink Embry-Riddle's priorities for the future and how best to achieve them."

"Having been part of that process, and now reflecting on those changes and new directions, it is clear to me that it is time for a new president to step forward and work with the Board to implement its agenda. And so, effective Nov. 30, I will resign my position as President of Embry-Riddle."

Members of the media, faculty, staff and student body attended the press conference. Three of the four SGA executives were also

in attendance.

Ebbs said his decision to resign was entirely his own and that he was not forced into the decision, denying rumors that he was being fired or had been asked to resign.

"The Board is fully aware of my decision and has been very thoughtful in their response," Ebbs said. He went on to say it was time for him to move on and spend

some time with his family and possibly find "some new challenges ahead. Change has been part of the Ebbs pattern all my life."

Ebbs said his seven-

year stint at Embry-Riddle was a good one. "Many aspects of my vision, my hopes and my dreams for this institution have been realized ... I want to leave on a high note, and this surely is it."

Student Government Association (SGA) President Sara McCook released a statement to *The Avion* saying, "Sometimes the right decision is not the one that benefits you. Character comes from doing

what's right in the rockiest of times. Dr. Ebbs's resignation was his way of allowing the University to establish new leadership and to push forward in the direction it has needed to take."

Administrators present said they were sad to see Ebbs go.

"I thought the President carried it off with enormous grace," Daytona Beach campus Chancellor Irwin Price said. "It's never an easy thing to do."

Price said Ebbs has brought "a level of maturity" to campus with the

establishment of separate colleges and new facilities.

"I came here because I liked him," he continued "You'll never find a better person to work for. I've enjoyed it."

"It's always hard," Associate Chancellor John Watret said. "The president is such a key figure in any institution. To see him move on is sad, but we always have to look to the future."

Dr. Blaise Waguespack, the Daytona Beach faculty representative to the Board of Trustees, said, "I think he did what he thought was in the best interests of the University."

The Avion attempted to contact several other members of the Board of Trustees, including Brigadier General William Spruance and Raymond Sigafos, but all of them were unavailable or declined to comment.

Ebbs was hired by the Board in the fall of 1998 after serving as president and CEO of The Canaan Group, a management consulting firm. He holds a doctoral degree in business policy, a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor of science degree in metallurgical engineering.

Johnson will serve as the interim president while the Board of Trustees conducts a national search for a replacement, which is expected to take place during the spring and summer semesters.

THE AVION

By students, for students.

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The life and legacy of Dr. George Ebbs

Ashley Moore

Diversions Editor

After dedicating seven year to Embry-Riddle's student body and faculty, Dr. George H. Ebbs announced at a press conference Wednesday evening that he will be stepping down as president of the university, effective Nov. 30.

Ebbs was hired on Aug. 21, 1998 to take the place of Dr. Steven M. Sliwa, who served as Embry-Riddle's University president from 1991 to 1998.

"Dr. Ebbs brings a wealth of commercial aviation experience, establishing relationships with industry leaders, and a solid track record of management and fiscal success to Embry-Riddle," said James O'Connor, chairman of Embry-Riddle's board of trustees in a press release issued in 1998. "He is exceptionally qualified to provide the vision and leadership to ensure the continued growth and success

of Embry-Riddle."

While at Riddle, Ebbs has spearheaded many projects that have advanced the university as a whole and has taken it to a collegiate level. Some of the major capital projects that have been completed on the Daytona Beach campus during Ebb's tenure as president are: the construction of the College of Aviation building, the Richard Petty Sports Field, the new Track and Field Complex, the Baseball Field, the construction of the ROTC building, the renovation of the John Paul Riddle Student Center, the renovation of Information Technology Building, the Crotty Tennis Complex, and the expansion of the ICI Center.

The Embry-Riddle Prescott campus

has also benefited from Ebb's presidency with the construction of the new academic building, the new Hi-Bay laboratories, the new Visitor's Center, the new Campus Entry, and the renovations of the Davis Learning

Center. "Ebbs made sure we [Embry-Riddle] kept up with new technology and needed campus expansions, especially at the Prescott campus," said John Watret the Associate Chancellor of the Daytona

Beach campus.

Other than the physical changes to both the Daytona Beach and Prescott campuses, Ebbs has also helped transform the University from within. "We look like a real University now with individual colleges," said Chancellor Irwin Price. "It use to be just a bunch of departments."

Embry-Riddle had become much more recognizable throughout the world under Ebbs' direction as president explained Price. "Now we are more engaged in Washington and in research," said Price. "[Ebbs] went to Washington a couple of times to appear in front of the Aviation sub-committee on behalf of Congressman John Mica."

In 2002, Ebbs took Embry-Riddle's name to South America where he met with Mr. Giovanni Pesce of Federic Santa Maria Technical University to sign a cooperative

agreement. The agreement established a joint committee to create specific aviation-related projects, including international fellowship programs and the transfer of education technology described the press release. Then in 2005, Ebbs took Embry-Riddle's name to the Middle East. Embry-Riddle is now looking into joining other U.S. universities such as Texas A&M in opening a campus in Qatar's Education City.

With all the impact Ebbs has had on Embry-Riddle one area of the university that has seen perhaps more support than others is the athletic department. "There's no question we have enjoyed the relationship that our university president has provided," said Steve Ridder, the Director of Athletics at Embry-Riddle. "He has connected with a lot of our coaches and athletes." In supporting athletics at Riddle, Ebbs has helped build needed facilities and provided support in the renovation of athletic fields.

Ebbs was also a great strength for Riddle during the tragic events that took place during 9/11. When Embry-Riddle was accused of harboring terrorists and was under investigation by the FBI, Ebbs pulled Riddle out of the fire. "His leadership got us through [9/11], and that was a time when we needed strong leadership," said Garry Vance the Executive Director of Programs and Planning in the Office of the President.

Over the seven years of Ebbs' term, the University has seen many changes. With Ebbs' resignation comes the end of one era and the beginning of another.

John Johnson: Back to the basics

Phil Larson

Sports Editor

In the wake of Dr. George Ebbs' surprise resignation, Embry-Riddle Provost and Chief Academic Officer (CAO), Dr. John Johnson, has been named interim University President by the Board of Trustees.

Garry Vance, Executive Director of Programs and Planning in the Office of the President, said, "It is customary that the number two person, who is the provost, takes over. The Board of Trustees made the decision who would take over on an interim basis." That decision was made last week at the board meeting in Prescott, Ariz.

As provost and CAO, Johnson oversaw all academic matters concerning the University and worked directly with Ebbs. He dealt with appointment, evaluation, management, and promotion of the faculty, as well as the evaluation and development of curricula and the growth of scholarly research activity.

"It was totally unexpected," Johnson said of his appointment. As for his position as provost, Johnson said, "For the next few months I'll wear both hats."

Johnson said he will work closely with the cabinet.

"We have a number of important issues we want to work with," he said. "My focus is primarily on strengthening the academic [part] of the University

and making sure our degree programs and our faculty are the very best." He said his tenure will be one of "going back to basics."

Johnson was appointed provost and CAO at Embry-Riddle on Nov. 25, 2003, after serving as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Texas A & M University. When he was appointed, Ebbs had this to say about him, "John Johnson is the perfect person to fill one of the most important positions within the University. He is an experienced faculty member with a strong record of academic leadership. I will be looking to John to bring the kind of innovative thinking to Embry-Riddle that made him so successful at Texas A & M."

During his time at Texas A & M, Johnson was responsible for many facets of the University's well being. He dealt with budgetary management, as well as many academic aspects of the institution.

It was his performance at these tasks in Texas that led to him being appointed to Embry-Riddle's administration. After

his hiring in 2003, Johnson was quoted on his appointment, "I am very pleased with the opportunity to become part of the Embry-Riddle family and to join a university with a world-wide mission and reputation for excellence in aviation, aerospace sciences, and engineering. Embry-Riddle is a wonderful institution and well-positioned to move to the next level. I believe that it is a good fit for me and that I can make a difference in helping the University move forward."

The interim President's academic background includes being Dean of Health Professions at the Medical University of South Carolina, Dean of Professional Studies at Northern Kentucky University, Chairman of the Communications Department at Lamar University, and Director of the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Bowling Green State

University. He also has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the speech and hearing sciences and biology since 1975. Johnson received his B.A. and M.S. degrees from Florida State University, and his Ph.D. from Kent State University.

Johnson has received nothing but praise from administrators as he prepares to take over for Ebbs.

"He's the right person," said Daytona Beach campus Chancellor Dr. Irwin Price.

"I think he's an excellent choice," Associate Chancellor Dr. John Watret said. "He's an experienced academic leader." Watret cited Johnson's previous leadership experience, and also added that having the provost serve as interim president also provides continuity.

"I believe with Dr. Johnson's academic background, whole-hearted belief in the student's voice and understanding of the inner workings of a university, he will be able to lead us to great heights," said Student Government Association (SGA) President Sara McCook in a statement. "He is a man of innovative thinking and an energetic leader dedicated to our community ... I have full confidence in Dr. Johnson and anxiously await the new levels this University will attain."



Students react to news of resignation

Brian Case

Business Manager

When President George Ebbs took the podium yesterday, everyone knew what he was going to say. Yet, now that news of Ebbs' resignation has spread, many are left wondering "What is next?"

The Avion asked students what was on their minds after hearing the news. Everyone I approached had a strong opinion, and was more than willing to share it.

The most common response was, "It's about time," or a variation of the same theme. Ebbs has been President since 1998, when the current freshmen class of ERAU was just entering the sixth grade.

Although few students seem saddened by news of his departure, most appreciate what Ebbs has done expand the University. Embry-Riddle is financially and academically the strongest it has ever been. Although this can not be fairly attributed to a single person, Ebbs is certainly responsible for much of this success.

The biggest criticism of Ebbs by the students is that he was not a strong enough advocate of the students. The recent discussion by the Board of Trustees to remove the SGA Presidents as voting members has certainly soured students' opinions of Ebbs. His comments at a recent Faculty Senate meeting that he did not personally support the student vote on the Board of Trustees came up repeatedly in conversations with students.



BRIAN CASE/AVION

When asked what quality they would most like to see in the fifth president of ERAU, student advocate topped the list.

"He must be there for the students," said Matthew Kleine, who was found studying late in the library.

Dr. Steven M. Sliwa, who served as President from 1991 through 1998, is

regarded as a strong supporter of students. Several mentioned they would like to see a President with his attitude towards the student body. One student commented that he expected whoever becomes the next president to be visible, someone the average student can recognize in passing.

Embry-Riddle has only had four

presidents. Jack R. Hunt was a visionary, Lt. General Kenneth L. Tallman, a builder. Sliwa was an advocate and Ebbs, a businessman. What remains to be seen is if the Board of Trustees will look to the past for a model President, or choose someone entirely different to take the reigns of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Student Forum

The Avion asks: "What do you think of Dr. Ebbs resigning?"

—Compiled by Anthony Ruditsier



Brian Dreyer
Aerospace Engineering
Senior

"What did he teach?"



Vincent Sabatini
Engineering Physics
Sophomore

"Ebbs doesn't want us to have a vote, next week he's gone. Something fishy is going on, Scooby."



Ian Cuthbert
Aerospace Engineering
Freshman

"Not that it matters, he only made about \$5 million over the eight years he has worked here."



Peter Maus
Aerospace Engineering
Freshman

"If he can't do the job, then he shouldn't be there. Simple as that."



Opie Shubert
Applied Meteorology
Sophomore

"But he did such a great job with the fountains."