

Cornelius M. Kerwin Named President of American University *Board Names Interim President to Permanent Position*

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WASHINGTON, DC (July 20, 2007) – American University’s Board of Trustees today selected Dr. Cornelius (Neil) M. Kerwin to become AU’s 14th permanent president, announced Gary M. Abramson, chair of both the AU board and the presidential search committee. Kerwin has served as acting and then interim president since August 2005. The appointment is effective September 1, 2007. He was elected by unanimous vote.

"The board, search committee, and AU community have been seeking a tested leader with integrity who appreciates the significant role of this university in American higher education and understands its potential for future greatness," said Chairman Abramson. "We have that person in Dr. Neil Kerwin—whose knowledge, appreciation, and understanding of American University span almost four decades. The tremendous strides that AU has made in recent years in student quality, faculty excellence, academic prestige, alumni involvement and international prominence—all in which Neil Kerwin played a significant role—suggest that AU is poised for the top tier in American private higher education, and we are confident that he will be instrumental to help us reach that goal."

The appointment concludes a national search, which was led by a 15-person search committee that included trustees, faculty, students, staff, academic leaders, alumni members and assisted by a search firm. The committee received more than 160 nominations or expressions of interest in the AU presidency and reviewed more than 100 applications, with candidate review beginning last January.

"I am honored to be named president of American University—a strong, vibrant, and important institution that is still young by many standards, but firmly established among the nation’s leading universities," Kerwin said. "Few institutions of higher education have progressed as far as AU has, which is a tribute to my colleagues—an exceptional and influential faculty, and a dedicated and talented staff. Our progress is also attributable to our alumni and students, whose accomplishments have and will continue to distinguish them and AU. This university can take great pride in its past, and look forward with confidence and excitement to a bright future. I will use the office of president to further advance the university’s mission, and to ensure that we maintain our traditions of achievement and service—that are the hallmarks of American University."

Serving the past two years as acting then interim president, Kerwin builds on a substantial body of knowledge of AU’s past accomplishments and future aspirations. Prior to becoming interim president, Kerwin was provost from 1997 to 2005; dean of the School of Public Affairs from 1988 to 1997; and assistant professor, associate professor, then full professor in the School of Public Affairs (and its predecessor, the School of Government and Public Administration). Kerwin earned his BA from American University in 1971; his MA from the University of Rhode Island in 1973; and his PhD from Johns Hopkins University in 1978, all in political science.

As provost, Kerwin was the university's chief academic officer, leading some 475 full time teaching faculty members in AU's six schools and colleges—the College of Arts and Sciences; Kogod School of Business; School of Communication; School of International Service; School of Public Affairs; and Washington College of Law. He also supervised admissions, financial aid, institutional research and assessment, the library, registrar, and other academic and support offices. He advanced major efforts to support faculty scholarship, teaching, and service and diversified the faculty. He led an effort to bring faculty salaries to the AAUP-Level 1 standard and enhanced the technological resources available for teaching excellence and learning.

Kerwin worked with the deans and faculty committees to complete a review of AU's masters and doctoral programs, improving academic quality and creating distinctive market niches; he oversaw the creation of the University College program, an integrated living-learning program for first year undergraduates. He has been a key player in the significant improvements in the university's academic reputation and quality of learning, based on qualitative indicators. In 2003, he led AU's decennial self-study that resulted in the university's unconditional re-accreditation and the adoption of AU's self-study report and design as a model for other institutions.

A professor of public administration in the School of Public Affairs, Kerwin has maintained a strong commitment to teaching and research and is a nationally known scholar in public policy, with emphasis on the regulatory process. He is the author of *Rulemaking: How Government Agencies Write Law and Make Policy* (3rd edition, 2003, Congressional Quarterly Press), and co-author of *How Washington Works: The Executive's Guide to Government*. Kerwin's scholarly articles have appeared in prestigious professional journals, and he has written numerous monographs, chapters, anthologies and other articles that have appeared in both professional and popular publications.

Under his leadership, AU established the Center for the Study of Rulemaking in 2004, whose mission is to better understand and improve the processes and techniques used by government agencies to develop regulations. The center organizes conferences, symposia, and workshops for scholars, public and private sector personnel, and the academic community.

“The Board of Trustees initially asked Dr. Kerwin to lead AU as interim president during a time of transition, and he brought a sense of calm, purpose, renewed respect and forward movement during his tenure,” said Chairman Abramson. “He enjoys the vibrancy of campus life, the daily interactions with students, faculty, staff, trustees and alumni, is committed to enhancing AU's ties to the nation's capital and to expanding AU's international presence. Neil Kerwin will be visible and active, as is evident from his strong record of accomplishment and considerable personal investment in American University through the years.”

Indicators of AU's emergent strengths include a \$400 million dollar budget and an endowment of some \$400 million; a capital campaign for “*AnewAU*” that has raised \$142 million toward its \$200 million goal; and construction projects that in recent years have resulted or will result in new or refurbished homes for each of the six schools and colleges. During AY06-07, freshmen applicants came in record numbers and with the highest levels of student quality, with an average SAT of 1268 and GPA of 3.54 for entering freshmen. Faculty quality and diversity also have been rising, as evidenced by the highest level of externally funded research in the history of the university during FY 2006. Faculty and students are being honored with more prestigious awards than ever; last year the university received the designation as a Truman Honors Institution for the number of students winning Truman Scholarships in recent years (including two this past year). AU graduate students

have received more Presidential Management Fellowships than any other institution during the sum of the last three years, and AU students recently have been awarded Marshall, Boren, Fulbright, Pickering, Killam, Rotary and other prestigious fellowships. AU's graduate programs continue to receive high rankings, with recent successes in this area for the Washington College of Law, the School of International Service and the School of Public Affairs. And results from the National Survey of Student Engagement continue to reflect high levels of academic rigor, faculty student interaction and other measures of student learning for our undergraduate programs.

The initial priorities that President Kerwin will manage will include the launching of AU's next strategic plan; the conclusion of the \$200 million Campaign for *AnewAU*; the filling of some upper level positions; and working to complete the construction and refurbishment of the major teaching and learning spaces, including new homes for the School of International Service and School of Communication.

American University is a leader in global education, with a diverse student body of more than 11,000 undergraduate, graduate and law students from some 140 nations enrolled in its six schools and colleges. It has built a solid academic reputation based on its capacity as a national and international university to turn ideas into action, action into service by emphasizing the arts and sciences, then connecting them to the issues of contemporary public affairs writ large, and notably in the areas of government, communication, business, law, and international service.

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