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Howard Goodman

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Metro

Tuesday, April 13, 1993

Hackney nominated for Washington job

The announcement was expected. He would head the National Endowment for the Humanities.

By Howard Goodman
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

President Clinton yesterday nominated University of Pennsylvania president Sheldon Hackney to head the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The announcement had been expected.

Hackney, 59, has been at Penn since 1981. He is a professor of history who regularly teaches undergraduates in addition to serving as the school's 21st chief executive.

He said in a brief statement that he was "pleased" by the nomination "and if confirmed by the Senate, I will be honored to serve."

Hackney, a soft-spoken man who shies from the spotlight, was not on campus yesterday and was unavailable for comment. His prepared statement alluded to possible steps he would take to effect his resignation.

"Considering the implication that my possible departure has for Penn and its leadership, I have been giving the matter a great deal of thought," Hackney said in the statement. "I will have more to say about it at the end of this week."

Barbara Beck, a Penn spokeswoman, said a search committee would be formed to find a successor should Hackney resign. Penn's trustees

Penn president is nominated for NEH post

ld make the final decision. acting president, chosen from in the university's ranks, would ably be named in the interim. Clinton took note of Hackney's background as a scholar of the American South in a brief announcement ed by the White House. The National Endowment of the Humanities plays a vital role in enraging and enhancing a better understanding of our country's rich itage," Clinton said. "Doing just t has been the work of Sheldon Hackney's life." Hackney would succeed Lynne V. Cheney, the wife of former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, who reed as head of NEH when the sh administration ended. In a recent week, Hackney's ap-

pointment had been predicted as imminent by White House and congressional sources. His tenure at Penn — nearly a dozen years — is considered lengthy by standards of Ivy League presidents. Under Hackney, Penn conducted one of the most effective fund-raising campaigns in higher education history, a \$1 billion drive launched in October 1989. The drive has raised \$955 million with two years to go — the largest sum raised by an Ivy League university and second only to Stanford's \$1.2 billion drive that ended in February 1992. Since 1980, Penn's endowment has more than quadrupled, from \$218 million to more than \$1 billion. Hackney also worked to improve Penn's relationship with the West

Philadelphia neighborhood surrounding the campus. Under his leadership, hundreds of Penn students and faculty became involved in community activities such as tutoring in West Philadelphia schools or providing health checkups to the area's residents. Hackney is a former president of Tulane University and was on the faculty of Princeton University for a decade. A native of Alabama, Hackney has written several works about his home region. His *Populism to Progressivism in Alabama* won the Albert J. Beveridge Prize for best book of 1969 on American history. He holds an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and graduate degrees from Yale. He serves on numerous boards, in-

cluding the American Council on Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Clinton yesterday also nominated Michael Shapiro, a Washington lawyer, as the endowment's general counsel. The National Endowment for the Humanities serves as liaison between the federal government and the academic community. Hackney would leave a large university with 22,400 students, 4,200 faculty members and a budget of \$1.5 billion for a federal agency of just 300 employees and a budget of less than \$180 million. The NEH does have clout. Last year, it made 2,199 grants totaling nearly \$160 million to libraries, museums, colleges and individual scholars.



Sheldon Hackney said he was "pleased" and would be "honored to serve."

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