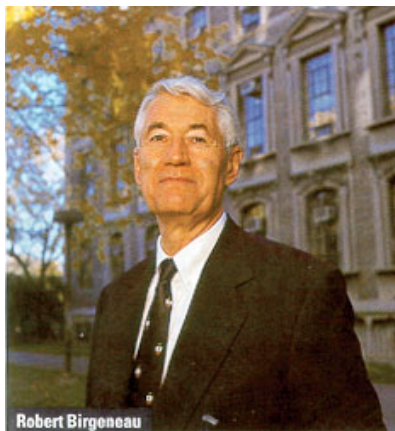


University to move swiftly to appoint interim president and launch international search for new president

President Robert Birgeneau to join University of California, Berkeley
July 27, 2004
by Jessica Whiteside

The University of Toronto will move decisively to appoint an interim president, following the announcement that President Robert Birgeneau will leave to join the University of California, Berkeley.



Rose Patten, chair of U of T's **Governing Council**, said the university will announce the name of an interim president in the next few weeks. At the same time, the university will mount an international search for a new president. With an interim president in place and strong experienced leadership across the university, U of T's vision to be a leader among the world's best public teaching and research universities will stay firmly on course, says Patten.

We are proud of the important contributions **President Birgeneau** has made to the university during the past four years, says Patten. He has built upon a distinguished and enduring history of sustained leadership in public education and has set out a vision of excellence that will continue. The university community wishes him well with his new challenges.

The U of T is a strong institution and an exemplar when it comes to the importance it places on the student experience, financial assistance and accessibility, and on the quality of its teaching and research. These priorities will continue to be very central to the leadership of the university, says Patten.

Guided by the university's policy on the appointment of a president, nominations will be sought for individuals to serve on a search committee that will be broadly

representative of faculty, students, staff, alumni and government appointees of Governing Council.



Rose Patten

We will be well served in the **presidential search** by our reputation, the breadth and depth of talent within the university, and by our proven ability to attract top academic talent from around the world. Our succession of great presidents is testimony to this, says Patten.

Birgeneau, who was appointed U of T's 14th president in 2000, is a 1963 graduate of St. Michael's College at U of T and an internationally renowned physicist.

It has been a great honour and a privilege to lead the University of Toronto, says Birgeneau. The decision to leave for this new opportunity was a difficult one. U of T's excellent faculty, superb staff, outstanding students and dedicated alumni and friends make it a great institution and one of North America's finest universities.