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Tuesday, May 13, 2008

## Wyatt to direct facilities operation He will replace Kotowski, who will focus on energy initiatives

May 5, 2008

By George Mauzy

Ohio University Executive Director of Facilities Management Harry Wyatt will succeed John Kotowski as associate vice president for facilities, effective May 12.

As part of his new duties, Wyatt will oversee all aspects of facilities at the university. This includes oversight of planning and implementation, maintenance and operations, work center, and campus services. It also includes the university's newest areas that focus on making the campus more green -- sustainability and energy management.

"Harry is a natural successor given his excellent qualifications as an architect, MBA and the fact that he has led facilities organizations at other large universities," Vice President for Finance and Administration Bill Decatur said.

Kotowski recently announced his retirement, effective September 30, after nearly 32 years at the university. Kotowski will remain on to head up several special projects.

Vice President for Finance and Administration Bill Decatur said the overlap will facilitate a smooth transfer of leadership, knowledge transfer and fiscal year 2009 budget preparation.

"The early notice of John's retirement has allowed us the time to work toward a seamless transition within facilities," Decatur added.

Wyatt is pleased to be building on strengths.

"I am very happy to further serve the university and continue our department's efforts toward integrating facilities functions, incorporating sustainability into our buildings and operations, and general process improvement," Wyatt said. "John has made great strides in these areas and I look forward to building on his fine work."

Wyatt said he hopes to continue his area's efforts to become more efficient, while not sacrificing the quality of its provided services.

He added that his major initiatives will be implementing energy

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management and sustainability principles across all of his department's functions and integrating facilities functions with the planning and implementation functions.

"These are the key initiatives that I hope to continue improving," Wyatt said.

He's also looking in new directions.

"One of my first orders of business will be getting up to speed with the planning, design and construction operation, because those are the only new areas under my supervision."

The area of responsibility may be new here but the setting is ever so familiar.

"While growing up in Delaware and the East Coast, I fell in love with the Georgian architecture that is so prominent there," Wyatt said. "Our buildings remind me of those, so it will be rewarding to blend those experiences into my everyday, routine work. I'm just excited to get started."

Wyatt began at Ohio University in November 2006. Prior to that, he served five years at the University of Toledo as associate vice president for facilities management. His Toledo stint was preceded by 20 years in progressively responsible facilities roles at other large universities, including Georgia State University and the Louisiana State University Medical Center. He spent another 11 years in various facilities planning and design roles, with the latest being the Duke University Medical Center.

Wyatt has bachelor's degrees in both environmental design and architecture from North Carolina State University and an MBA from Duke University.

Wyatt's appointment allows Kotowski to finish his illustrious career at Ohio University as the lead on energy initiatives stemming from such developments as the Presidents Climate Commitment, which President Roderick J. McDavis signed last year, and recent legislation. He will work on updating campus building standards in compliance with the state's energy management bill; oversee completion of the operating plan for the new compost facility; and assist with refining the university's energy efficiency and sustainability plans.

"John is winding up a tremendous career at Ohio University," Decatur said. "His signature is visible everywhere in the beauty and cohesiveness across this campus."

A national search for a director of plant operations to succeed Wyatt will begin immediately.

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*Updated at 11:35 a.m. May 6.*

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