Missouri Provost appointed vice president

The provost of University of Missouri-Rolla for the past two years will become vice president for academic affairs at Cal Poly on Sept. 1.

Appointment of Tomlinson Fort Jr., 50, to lead development of academic programs at Cal Poly was announced by the university president Warren J. Baker.

Dr. Fort’s selection for the position was recommended by a campus-wide committee composed of faculty, staff, and students of the university after a nationwide search which involved nearly 200 applicants.

He will succeed Dr. Hazel J. Jones, who will retire on Aug. 31, after having been vice president for academic affairs at Cal Poly for eight years.

President Baker said in his announcement of the appointment that he is confident that Dr. Fort will provide strong leadership for the university’s academic programs.

"Dr. Fort’s extensive experience in administration, teaching, and research, along with his industrial experience, will serve him well in his new assignment as chief academic officer of the university," Dr. Baker said.

Dr. Fort earned his bachelor’s degree in chemistry at University of Georgia and two advanced degrees in chemistry at University of Tennessee.

Since completion of his doctoral studies in 1957, he has participated in postdoctoral research at University of Sydney in Australia and attended the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University.

University of Missouri-Rolla is one of four campuses in the University of Missouri system. With 7,000 students, it is known for its undergraduate and graduate degree programs in engineering and the sciences.

Dr. Fort said both he and his wife, Martha, are looking forward to their move to California with enthusiasm. The Forts are the parents of two children. A son, Tomlinson III, 23, completed study for his bachelor's degree in geology at Franklin and Marshall College (Pa.) this spring, and a daughter, Frances Clare, 20, is a student at Wellesley College (Mass.).

Tomlinson Fort Jr.

The new vice president for academic affairs is a member of a number of scientific and educational societies, including the American Chemical Society, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Society for Engineering Education, and American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He has been able to combine teaching and research with his administrative duties during his tenure at University of Missouri-Rolla, and before that, at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, where he was head of the Chemical Engineering Department for seven years.

Dr. Fort spent eight years as a member of the chemical engineering faculty and director of the Surface Research Laboratory at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland; four years as a senior research chemist and project leader with E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co., and taught at University of Sydney for a year.

A specialist in surface and colloid science, he currently is advising two doctor of philosophy degree candidates in chemical engineering and is nearing completion of a $775,000 study of enhanced oil recovery methods for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dr. Fort has also been active as a consultant and is the author of some 60 professional papers in the fields of chemistry and chemical engineering.

His continuing consulting assignments have been with such firms as E.I. du Pont, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., GAF Corp., B.F. Goodrich Chemical Co., Monsanto Co., and General Electric Co.