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Last Updated: 5:46 am | Friday, May 16, 2008

Votruba quells retirement rumors

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS – Northern Kentucky University President James C. Votruba is not resigning.

Votruba made the announcement that he is not leaving the university in a campus-wide e-mail on Wednesday.

Votruba wrote: “During my NKU tenure, there have been occasional rumors of my departure. This happens on all campuses and is to be expected. However, I’ve recently had several people from both inside and outside the university tell me that there’s an often repeated rumor going around that I’m about to either retire or leave for another position. This rumor seems to have reached a level that deserves a response. The 11 years that I’ve spent at the university have been the most satisfying of my professional life and, assuming the continued support of our board and the campus, I have absolutely no plan to leave NKU.”

ADVERTISEMENT Votruba stated he felt the need to address the rumor after being approached within 48 hours by four to five local leaders on both sides of the river about his resignation.

The rumors may have been fueled by the retirement of his long-time executive secretary Mimi Assanuvat.

In the e-mail, after praising the university’s accomplishments, Votruba wrote that he doesn’t plan on stepping down “for a few more years.”

Votruba began as president on Aug. 1, 1997, taking over for interim President Jack Moreland. Prior to coming to NKU, Votruba served as vice provost at Michigan State University.

The president said that he doesn’t yearn for the retirement yet.

“I don’t have the patience for fishing, and I spend way too much time in the woods when I golf,” Votruba said in an interview. “If I had to rely on golf for fulfillment, I’d be in a sorry state.”

In fact, after leaving the president’s office he may return to the classroom.

“When the time does come for me to step down, my intention is to return to the faculty for a few years. I had an opportunity to teach earlier in my career and I really enjoyed it. That is something I intend to do. In addition, I serve on a number of boards and am involved in several national organizations dedicated to higher education. I’ll continue that involvement as long as I am able.”

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