

College may name president in Feb.

By Joseph Sapia :: Staff Writer

The Brookdale Community College board of trustees is likely to name a president of the two-year, Monmouth County-owned college next month, according to board chairman Jacob S. Elkes.

The position has been vacant since March, when President Peter F. Burnham resigned amid allegations of financial impropriety with his office's budget.

The new president would come aboard probably in May or June, Elkes said.

Elkes announced at Tuesday's trustees meeting that the presidential search committee, which he chairs, will submit four candidates to the trustees for consideration.

About 80 applied for the job, with the search committee reviewing credentials and whittling the candidates to nine, Elkes said.

The committee interviewed the nine, reducing that number to the four finalists, Elkes said. He described the four as "topflight" administrators, "very bright," "personable," and "good leaders."

"Any of them could be a formidable leader," Elkes said.

The four are to tour Brookdale, whose main campus is in Middletown, later this month or in early February, Elkes said.

Elkes declined to publicly release their names, saying he did not want to jeopardize their current positions or other jobs they were seeking.

Elkes did say William M. Toms, who has served as Brookdale's interim president since March, never was a candidate for the permanent job. Toms, a retired state trooper who holds a doctorate of education, came aboard only to serve as an interim president, Elkes said. The 11-member committee began its search over the summer, Elkes said. The committee was composed of Elkes and fellow trustees Lora Campbell and Lucille Jones, along with six college staff representatives, one student and one community member.

"This is a national search," Elkes said.

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