Dean Allan F. Smith is Appointed University Vice-President for Academic Affairs

Allan F. Smith, dean of the Law School since 1960, has been named Vice-President for Academic Affairs of the University of Michigan.

Dean Smith will begin his new duties September 1, succeeding Roger W. Heyns, who has accepted the post of chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley.

"Allan Smith has universal admiration, respect, and widely acclaimed competence. He has a remarkable understanding of educational problems as they unfold in the present day. He recognizes that university growth and expansion must be fitted to a constant striving for excellence and wide-open opportunity for those who wish to attend the University of Michigan," said President Harlan Hatcher as he announced the appointment.

The president said the selection of Dean Smith followed wide consultation with the Regents, University deans and directors, representatives of faculty groups, leading faculty members, administrative officers, and others in the University community.

Commenting on his appointment and on his years with the Law School, Dean Smith said, "The position in the Office of Academic Affairs is a tremendously challenging one and I hope that I can be of service to the University in the new post. I shall miss the close association with the fine staff of the Law School, which I have thoroughly enjoyed for 18 years, but I know that we can continue to supply that high quality legal education for which the Law School is so well known."

The new vice-president is widely known as a scholar, administrator, and author, and has gained a reputation as a superior classroom teacher. He first came to the University in 1946 as a lecturer in law and a research associate. He was appointed assistant professor of law in 1947, associate professor in 1950, and professor of law in 1953.

"Dean Smith enjoys a high standing as a member of the University community, and possesses leadership qualities to a superb degree," President Hatcher said. "He has great skill and sensitivity in relationships with faculty and students, and outstanding stature as a legal scholar in the more humanistic and social implications of the law."

During his years with the Law School, Dean Smith has served as director of legal research and chairman of the Graduate Committee. He has also served as chairman of the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs.

Before coming to Michigan he had taught at the Stanford University Law School and from 1941 to 1943 he was chief counsel with the Office of Price Administration. During World War II, he served in the Military Intelligence Service of the Army.

Dean Smith is a member of the American Bar Association, the Michigan State Bar Association, Phi Delta Phi (honorary member), and the American Judicature Society. He has served on various committees of the state bar association and as chairman of the Real Property Section. He is now a commissioner-at-large of the Michigan State Bar.

His publications include a volume on "Personal Life Insurance Trusts" and co-editorship of one of the two most widely used casebooks on property. In 1956 he collaborated with Professor Lewis M. Simes in a comprehensive revision of The Law of Future Interests.

Charles W. Joiner, associate dean of the Law School, will serve as acting dean of the School until action is taken to fill Dean Smith’s present position.