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Charles B. Fancher

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Dr. Charles B. Fancher

by Julie Huskey and Glenda Alvin

Dr. Charles B. Fancher, Sr., was Interim President of Tennessee State University from July 1, 1974 to December 31, 1974.

Dr. Fancher earned his bachelor's degree in physics from Talladega College in Alabama, his master's degree in educational administration from the University of Pittsburgh, and his PhD, also in educational administration, from the University of Wisconsin.

Prior to his career in higher education, Dr. Fancher was a high school teacher in Alabama and a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He started his post-secondary education career at Alabama A & M, where he became the Chair of the Division of Education. After that successful tenure, he joined the faculty at Tennessee State University in 1962. When TSU appointed its first vice presidents in 1971, Fancher, who was then Dean of the Faculty, was named Vice President for Academic Affairs.

In 1974, he was appointed Interim President of the university after Dr. Andrew P. Torrence resigned to accept a position at the Tuskegee Institute. His six months as Interim President included overseeing the transition of *the* university from the quarter system to the semester system. When Dr. Frederick Humphries was selected as the new university president, Dr. Fancher returned to his position as academic vice president until he departed for a position with the Tennessee Board of Regents later that year. One of his accomplishments at TBR was the supervision of the merger of TSU and the University of Tennessee at Nashville in 1979, which later became the Avon Williams building. He retired from TBR as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in 1985. The George Cox-Charles Fancher Computer Complex was named in his honor in recognition of his service to Tennessee State University.

His wife, Evelyn P. Fancher, was director of TSU libraries from 1976 to 1989.

Dr. Fancher died in Nashville on October 5, 2020, a few weeks before his 100th birthday.

