Our Opinion: New dean must be campus advocate

By IMPERIAL VALLEY STAFF

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Apparently, it’s not over until it’s over. And it looks like the search for a new dean of San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus is finally over.

It was announced Saturday that David Pearson would be the new dean of the campus. This announcement came less than two weeks after the search committee announced a replacement had not been found for the retiring Stephen Roeder.

The reason for this sudden change is not clear, as officials aren’t exactly saying why Pearson, who was one of the original finalists, apparently changed his mind and took the job. University officials, unfortunately, did not say why there was a change of heart. We hope in the future they are more forthcoming.

But we do believe that, on the surface, this appears to be a solid selection.

Pearson is coming to the Valley after serving as vice president for partnership affairs at the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. It is a job that is a perfect fit for the position he will fill here at the local SDSU campus.

In his current role, Pearson has had the opportunity to work at a campus on the border. He is a fluent Spanish speaker and is knowledgeable of the particular hurdles facing border schools.

Also, his Texas position will help in fostering closer relations between Imperial Valley College and SDSU. We see this as a win for local students.

Roeder has been an effective dean, but we encourage Pearson to fully embrace the community, its people and the local culture. Being out in the public — and not necessarily at black-tie-only events — is important. This is a Valley that needs to see more of its students go to college and for these students to have more options once they get there.

We believe the local campus has long been seen by the main campus in San Diego as a step child that is often forgotten. We hope Pearson will be a strong advocate for the local campus, its programs and students. What we do not need here is simply a “yes-man” for the main campus.

Welcome aboard.

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