



City of Cambridge

R-13.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 13, 1999

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

- WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that Harvard University has named the Reverend J. Bryan Hehir as the new leader of the Harvard Divinity School; and
- WHEREAS: Reverend Hehir, a Roman Catholic priest and a graduate of Harvard Divinity School, is a world-renowned theologian who specializes in Roman Catholic social teaching; and
- WHEREAS: Father Hehir is the first Catholic to assume permanent leadership of the school; and
- WHEREAS: During his career he has received many academic honors, including a MacArthur "genius" grant and honorary degrees from twenty-five colleges and universities; and
- WHEREAS: Reverend Hehir has been a forceful voice in the Catholic Church on issues involving peace and warfare and played an instrumental role in the drafting of the 1983 Catholic Bishops' Statement on Nuclear Weapons; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record congratulating the Reverend J. Bryan Hehir on his appointment as the new leader of Harvard Divinity School in the position of Chair of the Executive Committee of the Harvard Divinity School; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Reverend J. Bryan Hehir on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council September 13, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

XO Margaret Drury

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

MAS

13

8/12 9 a.m.

W/A It has come to the attention of this City Council that Harvard University has named the Reverend J. Bryan Hehir as the new leader of the Harvard Divinity School; and

W/A Reverend Hehir, a Roman Catholic priest and a graduate of Harvard Divinity School, is a world-renowned theologian who specializes in Roman Catholic social teaching; and

W/A Father Hehir is the first Catholic to assume permanent leadership of the school; and

W/A During his career he has received many academic honors, including a MacArthur "genius" grant and honorary degrees from 25 colleges and universities; and

W/A Reverend Hehir has been a forceful voice in the Catholic Church on issues involving peace and warfare and played an instrumental role in the drafting of the 1983 Catholic Bishops' Statement on Nuclear Weapons; now therefore be it

Resolved: That the C-C go on record congratulating the Reverend J. Bryan Hehir on his appointment as the new leader of Harvard Divinity School and the position of Chair of the Executive Committee of the

Howard Denny's School; and be it further

Resolved: SEC

Harvard picks a Catholic priest as new leader of divinity school

■ HEHIR

Continued from Page B1

discovery of pornography on his Harvard-owned computer.

Colleagues praised Hehir's leadership in a time when the school was reeling from the scandal. Harvard president Neil Rudenstine asked Thiemann to step down last fall after staff found thousands of pornographic images on his office computer. Staff, faculty, and students were stunned by the revelations, made public in May, which had been a closely guarded secret.

"What we needed was a sense of openness, and [Hehir] provided that in spades," said Professor David Hall, who served on the advisory committee that recommended Hehir.

Hehir, 58, is a graduate of the divinity school and the first Catholic to assume permanent leadership of the school. The Rev. George W. MacRae, a Jesuit priest, served as in-

terim dean for several months in 1985, but died suddenly of a heart attack.

During his career, Hehir has received a plateful of academic honors. He received a MacArthur "genius" grant and honorary degrees from 25 colleges and universities.

He has been a forceful voice in the Catholic Church on issues involving peace and warfare, and he played an instrumental role in the drafting of the 1983 Catholic Bishop's Statement on Nuclear Weapons.

The announcement of Hehir's appointment was not unexpected, though the linguistic gymnastics surrounding his official title baffled some faculty members.

When told about the confusion over his title, Hehir laughed.

"Harvard's ways are baffling to many," he said. "Harvard does not spend time making questions simple."

Harvard picks Catholic to lead divinity school

By James Bandler
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

With a presidential flourish, Harvard University yesterday named the Rev. J. Bryan Hehir, a Roman Catholic priest, as the new leader of its divinity school.

Just don't call him a dean.

Instead, call him the "chair of the Executive Committee."

At a school where titles are considered very important, Harvard officials scrambled to explain why Hehir would not be officially called a dean. Because of his duties as a priest and his role as a counselor with Catholic Relief Services, Hehir, they said, would run the school with

other members of the Executive Committee.

"Obviously, his first responsibilities are to his faith and church," said Joe Wrinn, a university spokesman. "We wanted to adjust the job to take advantage of his talents. We get to take advantage of his talents, and he is able to keep his commitments to his parish. This is a good match between Harvard and Brian."

Whatever his official title, Hehir, a world-renowned theologian who specializes in Roman Catholic social teaching, has been serving as the de facto acting dean of the school since November, after Ronald Thiemann resigned the deanship following the

HEHIR, Page B4

DATE: 8/12/99

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

COUNCILLOR: Sullivan

BIRTHDAY: _____

BIRTH: _____

DEATH: _____

MARRIAGE: _____

ANNIVERSARY: _____

BACKGROUND IN Globe Metro Section NEWSPAPER

NAME: Rev. J. Bryan Hehir

Congratulations on being named as Director
of Harvard Divinity School

Message taken by: Doris Murphy



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Resolution #13

902R

Councillor Sullivan re: Congratulations to
Rev. J. Bryan Hehir on his appointment as
the new leader of Harvard Divinity School
in the position of Chair of the Executive
Committee.

In City Council September 13, 1999

ORDER ADOPTED