



UIS Chancellor Announces Retirement

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SPRINGFIELD – With Illinois public universities facing drastic cuts as a result of the state’s record budget deficit, Richard Ringeisen, chancellor for the University of Illinois at Springfield, announced Monday that he would retire in October.

The smallest campus of the state’s flagship university is feeling the pinch as a result of the state’s \$13 billion budget shortfall.

But the UIS head said the desire to spend more time with his family, not the state’s fiscal crisis, affected his decision to step away.

[“The budget’s a danger...This is almost Biblical – The bad budget shall always be with us,” Ringeisen said. “We just have to make the proper moves to take care of it.”](#)

The University of Illinois system instituted furloughs for faculty members, academic professionals and top administrators in all three of its campuses in January.

Last month, UIS reached tentative agreements on furloughs with a number of unions representing civil service employees.

Ringeisen said he and other school administrators were planning for a sizeable reduction in state aid, which makes up about half of the entire operating budget for the UIS campus.

[“We have just been, for planning purposes...looking at something like a 15 percent cut in overall state support. It could be worse much worse than that if \[lawmakers\] don’t do anything about catching us up or it could be better if some of the plans in front of the legislature pass,” he said. “But we’re trying to be ready for a cut like that.”](#)

Ringeisen will be the latest top U of I administrator to step down.

University president B. Joseph White and Urbana campus Chancellor Richard Hermann resigned last fall as a result of a “clout” scandal involving students being ushered into the state’s flagship university system by the state’s politically connected.

Ringeisen took over as the head of the Springfield campus in April 2001, leading UIS through big changes in spite of the state’s recurring budget problems.

During his tenure, UIS transitioned from a mostly two-year commuter school to a four-year campus with residential halls.

Ringeisen also oversaw the construction of a state-of-the-art sports center as well as the university's transition into NCAA Division II athletics.

Ringeisen said he had not talked to University of Illinois interim President Stanley Ikenberry about a recommendation for a replacement.

The UIS chancellor said the University of Illinois system would first seek a permanent president before considering the next head of UIS.

The University of Illinois Board of Trustees is expected to discuss Ringeisen's retirement later this month.