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## U of I trustees vote to pay outgoing chancellor \$273K

March 10, 2010 4:00 PM | No Comments

The University of Illinois board of trustees voted today to give Richard Ringeisen, the retiring chancellor of the Springfield campus, a one-year paid administrative leave after he steps down Oct. 31.

The arrangement, in which Ringeisen will be paid \$273,500 but not have any job responsibilities, is a change to what was proposed last week.

Under the former deal, Ringeisen would have kept his salary for 14 months while serving as a consultant to the president.

Ringeisen, 65, asked for the change, said spokesman Tom Hardy.

Credited with transforming the Springfield campus into a more traditional university, Ringeisen got a standing ovation at today's meeting in Champaign. During his near decade as chancellor, the number of students and faculty increased and the campus added many buildings. It also has been on the forefront of offering academic programs online.

In its vote on Ringeisen's new employment arrangement, the board decided to "honor the agreement" that former U. of I. President James Stukel offered Ringeisen when he was hired in 2001. In a letter offering Ringeisen the job, Stukel said the chancellor would get a "one year administrative salary" upon retirement and then be able to work as a faculty member.

The U. of I. board at the time did not vote on the Stukel offer. U. of I. interim president Stan Ikenberry said the letter may not be legally binding, but "we needed to pay attention" to it.

"It really is conventional in every respect and, by and large, mirrors best practice," Ikenberry said last week. "When the year's leave was committed to ... it was probably assumed that Rich might be returning to the faculty."

Ringeisen does not plan to return as a faculty member and is relinquishing his rights to tenure, according to the retirement agreement.

-- Jodi S. Cohen

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