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UIS' Ringeisen to get original retirement deal

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After a week of controversy that he said had "just gotten crazy," University of Illinois Springfield chancellor Richard Ringeisen will take his original retirement deal after all.

Ringeisen's resignation from UIS will take effect Oct. 31. He will receive a year's administrative leave at his current salary of \$273,500, instead of taking a consultant job that would have lasted 14 months and would have added about \$45,500 to his post-resignation income.

The agreement, approved Wednesday by the University of Illinois board, is the arrangement described in then-President James Stukel's January 2001 letter offering the UIS position to Ringeisen.

Ringeisen, 65, who has been chancellor at UIS since 2001, announced earlier this month he plans to retire at the end of October and move with his wife to South Carolina to be closer to family.

U of I interim President Stanley Ikenberry had agreed to change the terms of Ringeisen's employment agreement to keep him on as consultant for long-range planning and special assistant to the president for 14 months after his retirement. He would have been paid at the same \$273,500 annual rate, or about \$319,000 for the 14 months.

"I had approached President Ikenberry and said that this thing has just gotten crazy," Ringeisen said of criticism of his consulting offer. "I told him I'd be perfectly happy to go to the arrangement that was promised me and nothing more."

In addition to the \$45,500, the U of I will save any travel expenses Ringeisen would have incurred in his consulting position.

The trustees also appointed Ringeisen chancellor emeritus, an unpaid ceremonial title.

Ikenberry recommended Wednesday that the board approve the 2001 terms.

Ringeisen said he was "very pleased" with the board's actions.

"President Ikenberry had a lot of nice things to say about me, and the board gave me a standing ovation," he said. "It was a nice way to end what was one of the worst weeks of my life."

He said he wants to "keep moving forward" over the next 7 1/2 months as the university tries to deal with a growing budget and appropriations crisis.

"President Ikenberry said he intends to pick my brain no matter what," Ringeisen said. "And we won't stop caring about the university, not after 9 1/2 years here."

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Ringeisen praised

The University of Illinois board on Wednesday praised outgoing University of Illinois Springfield chancellor Richard Ringeisen for presiding over significant campus growth, including opening of The Recreation and Activities Center, Founders Hall, and University Hall, development of the campus quadrangle, the addition of the Emiquon Field Station, and the new Peoria Center.

During his tenure as chancellor, the campus' academic offerings expanded, the number of faculty members increased from 170 to 211, and student enrollment increased 16 percent, to nearly 5,000 in fall 2009.

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