

# Interim provost made permanent

By **DANIEL PIKE**

STAFF WRITER

In nearly 30 years at the University of Illinois at Springfield, Harry Berman has seen plenty of change.

He lived through the "intense" transition from Sangamon State University to UIS in the mid-1990s, for instance. An equally significant change is under way today, as UIS prepares for life as a four-year university.

Berman, who Thursday was appointed provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs by the U of I board of trustees, thinks UIS's future is as bright as ever.

"It seems like UIS, and before that Sangamon State, was always a place where there was a lot of energy, and where there was a willingness to take on new ideas," Berman said. "What is in front of us now is extremely positive, and that's very exciting."

Berman came to UIS in 1977 from Pennsylvania State University-Fayette in Uniontown, Pa. He has been a professor and administrator at UIS, serving as interim provost since January.

The provost is the No. 2 administrator and highest-ranking academic officer on campus.

Chancellor Richard Ringeisen said Berman performed so well as interim provost that UIS delayed, then scrapped, a planned national search for a permanent successor to former provost Michael Cheney, who resigned in December.

"Truthfully, I decided that we could search this country and not



**Berman**

find a better person," Ringeisen said.

The lack of a search doesn't bother Berman, who said he is honored by Ringeisen's confidence.

"The fact that the chancellor asked me to do this in a continuing way is because of the changes that we are in the middle of, and that I was centrally involved in," Berman said. "I don't think he would have gone forward with the decision if there hadn't been the support of the campus and faculty leadership."

Berman will play a key role as UIS sets up a new four-year, general education curriculum in time for the fall 2006 semester.

He said he's also eager to address the growth of UIS's popular online programs, prepare for the school's soon-to-be completed strategic plan and foster the "globalization" of UIS education through online and study-abroad programs.

"What we are doing here is so strong and so progressive that we deserve to be recognized in a broader way across the region and across the country for the quality of what we do," Berman said.

He will be paid an annual salary of \$163,487 and will continue to serve as a professor in the human services program.

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