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*Board Chair.*

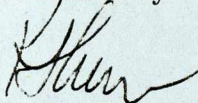
# Edwardsville Bulletin

To the Faculty and Staff of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Vol. 11, No. 11  
April 17, 1979

TO: The University Community

FROM: Kenneth A. Shaw



From the time that changes in the governance structure of the Southern Illinois University System were adopted by the Board of Trustees, many friends, colleagues and other interested parties have asked me if I intended to be a candidate for the position of Chancellor. Out of courtesy to those genuinely concerned, I am using this letter to declare my intentions and my reasons for the decision I have made.

On March 31, Professor Keith Sanders, Chairperson of the Chancellor Search Assistance Council, indicated to me in writing that I had been nominated and inquired as to whether I wished to apply. Since then, I have given long and careful consideration as to what my decision should be. In doing so I have tried to examine all of my options and each of my present professional and personal responsibilities. On April 16, I wrote Dr. Sanders informing him of my desire to be considered and indicated that I would send him the necessary materials.

There are three main reasons for my decision, and I would like to explain them as candidly and clearly as I can:

1. To put it very directly, I am interested in being considered. Interest in this position in no way implies a commitment either from myself or from those involved in the search process. The Board and its Search Assistance Council are obliged to find that person who best fits the position in question. The search process also allows me as a candidate to determine if the position fits my abilities, needs, and interests. My interest in the position, then, simply provides an opportunity for both parties to determine if there is an "aptness of fit."
2. I want to insure that the total applicant pool is comprised of the highest number of quality candidates possible. I feel that my candidacy will further this end. Of course, all other candidates will have similar feelings. In my case, however,

my future role in the System will be strongly affected by whatever choice the Board finally makes. So, the stakes for me and for the University at Edwardsville are significant enough for me to not ignore them. I am certain that the Board will have many outstanding candidates from which to choose; my candidacy simply offers them one further option.

3. I wish to be able to exert as much influence as possible in shaping the actual role that the Chancellor will play. I have convictions and views as to how the SIU System can insure a proper balance between campus autonomy and centralized functions. SIUE and its President will be directly affected by the type of person chosen and by the Board's view as to what the person will be doing. My candidacy may afford me the chance to state my views to both the Search Assistance Council and to the Board, thus exerting some influence over this very important area.

I am submitting my candidacy, then, because I am interested in the position and also feel it is in the best interest of the University. The search process may result in reconsideration of my present views on this matter; or in the judgment of the Council and the Board, more apt candidates may emerge. In either case, I will be delighted to remain at Edwardsville in a position that has given me great satisfaction. It is because of the challenge of my present responsibilities that I plan to say no more about this matter. There is work to be done here and I do not want my attention diverted from those activities which must take first priority.

Finally, I wish to thank those who have offered me advice and support during the process of making this decision. It has not been an easy one for me to make. It is good to have good friends.