

**Statement of SIU President Glenn Poshard
Oct. 11, 2007**

I, too, would like to express my thanks for the work of the Faculty Review Committee.

They are the leaders of our academic community and it is to them that this uncomfortable and difficult task has fallen. I said from the very beginning that I had great confidence in their sense of fairness, that I believed they would be deliberative and thoughtful, and I would accept whatever recommendations they felt necessary for me to remedy my mistakes. And I do so.

But more than that, even though the Review Committee says these mistakes were unintentional and inadvertent, they are my mistakes. And I take full responsibility for them. They are not the fault of my committee, my department, my college or my University.

I have given over forty years of my life to public service, and in most of those years, I have had a very direct relationship to Southern Illinois University. I have been a student, a civil servant, an adjunct professor, Vice Chancellor of Administration, a member of the Board of Trustees, and now President.

I have carried the University's interest in both the Illinois State Senate and the U.S. Congress. I have an inordinate love for this University. At no time in my life would I have ever intentionally brought harm to this University or its reputation, but even for those unintentional acts, I apologize to the University community.

I have spoken often for our need to build community here at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. We cannot do that if we seek to build with just those members of the family with whom we agree. It is especially important to extend the hand of fellowship to those with whom we disagree. To those members of the Alumni and Faculty Against Corruption, my door is always open. You can talk and I will listen. Perhaps we cannot solve the problem immediately, but we can begin an honest conversation to bring healing to our University.

I believe we can be a better, more informed community because of this experience. I formed a committee last year under the leadership of Dr. Lane Adkins to bring clarity to this issue. The Review Committee has recommended, and I will carry out, the policy of the Blue Ribbon Panel as soon as the faculty has deliberated its merits and the Board of Trustees has approved it. It will be accompanied by a

full scale education program to ensure our academic community fully understands the ground rules under which Southern Illinois University will operate with regard to this issue.

In the meantime, I intend to stay focused on my work. We have an undergraduate education experience to improve, a research mission to fulfill, enrollment and retention problems to solve, buildings to build and renovate, and neighborhoods and communities to restore. And it is my responsibility to make sure that all of these goals are accomplished. And I will.

Thank you.