Written by Logan Zimmerman, Daily Vidette News Editor
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In a surprising series of events, ISU president announces his retirement

"I think I'm the only one who's happy about my news today."

ISU President Al Bowman's assessment wasn't far off after he announced on Monday he would retire after 34 years at Illinois State University and nine years as the University's president.

Despite describing himself as in good physical condition, Bowman cited concerns related to a previous medical issue and his long-term health involving his age and work-related stress, according to an email he sent out to the student body explaining his decision.

" … I'm not on death's door, but I realized in a very demanding job I probably have a better chance of maintaining my health if I can dial back a little bit," Bowman explained.

"What I didn't want to do is work at 80 percent and try to do the job with less effort," he said. "There's too much going on, and the University needs a president that is completely engaged."

Word of Bowman's decision to retire came as a surprise to most of the student population, especially after extending his contract with ISU an additional four years in October.

However, he said he arrived at his decision after "long and emotional" discussions with his wife, Linda, his daughters, Laura and Natalie, and several friends and colleagues, according to his email.

President [redacted]