

# REPORTER

Tuesday Afternoon, March 14, 1978

## Miller To Leave Presidency

In a surprisingly early decision, Dr. Paul A. Miller has announced his intentions to leave the Presidency of RIT by January 1, 1979. In announcing the decision, Dr. Miller cited "the three reasons and the only three," for this decision, his age (61); his career interests; and his desire to spend more time with his family and colleagues.

Dr. Miller made the decision at this time to make it, "explicit before the review team of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools arrives in April, 1978." Middle States reviews colleges and schools and grants accreditation.

In an exclusive interview with REPORTER this morning, Dr. Miller said, "When I came to RIT nine years ago, I developed a plan for RIT in the seventies, I've worked on that plan diligently and I think that it has all been accomplished."

Dr. Miller also said, "I leave RIT at peace with myself, I've accomplished all I set out to do." After a leave of absence, Dr. Miller will return to RIT to activate his professorships in the College of General Studies and the College of Continuing Education.

Dr. Miller came to RIT as President nine years ago, and has also been heavily involved in other organizations during that time. His main credits during this period include Chairman of the Committee on Higher Adult Education for the American Council on Education in Washington, D.C.; Chairman of the Committee on Public and Governmental Relations for the Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities; Chairman of the Committee on Social Goals and Policies for the United Community Chest of Greater Rochester, Inc.; and President of the Rochester Area Colleges, Inc., among others.

Prior to taking the position of President of RIT, Dr. Miller worked at North Carolina State University as a Professor of Adult Education and Director of University Planning Studies. He served as Assistant Secretary for Education for the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) from 1966 to 1968. One of Dr. Miller's most important credits when he came to RIT was his term as President of West Virginia University from 1962 to 1966. He held several positions at Michigan State University, leaving as Provost. He served in the United States Army Air Corps as a First Lieutenant for three years, before which he worked as an agricultural agent for West Virginia University in 1939. He later obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. from Michigan State U.

Mr. Richard Eisenhart, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, said, "The best news here is that Paul and Francena (Dr. Miller's wife) intend to remain in Rochester." Dr. Miller gave his statement before a capacity crowd in Ingle Auditorium at 12:15 today. That statement is printed in full below.

*On September 25, 1974, at an official meeting of the Trustees' Executive Committee, I requested a discussion of my desire to return eventually to my disciplinary and professional concern for the relation of education and research to domestic and international development. At that time, I indicated that a period of two or three years should enable me to give what remained to be given during my term as the RIT president.*

*Yesterday (March 13, 1978) the Executive Committee, and later the full Board of Trustees, approved my request to be released from the presidency of RIT, on or about January 1, 1979, and subject otherwise to the Board's convenience, and that I be permitted to activate my professorships in continuing education and general studies. That this special moment is chosen to make the announcement is due to my desire to have all the facts of RIT made explicit before the review team of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools arrives in April, 1978. It pleases me that this request has been granted at a time when the Institute is strong and vital, when the Trustees continue their always full support of my administration, when all the major posts are filled with able people, and when I and mine feel such extraordinary affection for the people of RIT.*

*Therefore, I should cite the three reasons, and the only three, which underlie this request:*

*First, with my age, now 61, and my awareness of the special talent and zest which the next 10-15 years will demand of the RIT president, it has become imperative that my successor, not I, be the principal architect of the Master Plan for the Eighties, the groundwork for which it has been my privilege to help develop.*

*Second, for my entire career my interests have been torn between the administrative suite and the library book stacks. Perhaps, after more than 25 years of central administrative duty at three major universities, I can be forgiven now for allowing the book stacks to win the final victory.*

*Third, Francena and I long for more time together, to enlarge the spirit of family and avocation, and to come to know colleagues and students in a more companionable way, aspects which have been subordinated for so long to administrative practice.*

*Finally, once my successor is found (and he or she will come to one of the best college presidencies in the land), Francena and I have requested respective leaves of absence, in order to study in our fields of interest at a university in this country or abroad. Then (with you the faculty and staff, the Trustees, and God willing) we intend to return to RIT in order to labor further as teachers, community servants, and, hopefully, as adequate scholars.*

*Meanwhile, we shall work hard to keep the Institute moving forward, and to assist the transition in every possible way.*

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