

Lesar stepping down as SIU-C law dean

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Hiram H. Lesar, the first dean of the school of law at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, will step down in August.

Lesar, the former dean of Washington University's school of law, will remain on the faculty, carrying a full teaching load until August 1980, when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 68.

"NEXT YEAR WE'LL start expanding the faculty and we'll be building the new building, so it seemed like the best time to get a new dean," he said, explaining his decision to resign a year early.

A committee began searching for a

new dean about a month ago.

Lesar, a native of Thebes, Ill., took over as law dean at SIU-C Jan. 1, 1973.

Under his leadership, the school's faculty has grown from six teachers when the first class enrolled in 1973 to 17 full-time and three part-time teachers today.

ABOUT 250 STUDENTS are enrolled in the three-year program, and 225 have received law degrees in the first three graduating classes.

Plans call for increasing the faculty to 27 within three years and expanding enrollment to about 400 by 1983.

The school's thorniest problem, its potential loss of accreditation resulting from inadequate physical facilities, has apparently been solved by a \$7.5 million state appropriation for construction of a new building, Lesar said.

"I think we have established a good law school and we have achieved the objectives of providing legal education for the area and of providing this area with lawyers," he said.

"IT'S SORT OF stimulating to start something. I certainly enjoyed it."

Lesar, 66, earned his law degree from the University of Illinois in 1936 and his doctor of judicial science degree from the Yale University school of law in 1938.

He taught at the University of Kansas and the University of Missouri before joining the faculty of Washington University in 1957. He was named dean there in 1960.

He served as interim president of SIU-C for about eight months during 1974.

Lesar, who lives with his wife, Rosalee, in Carbondale, said his plans after his retirement in 1980 are uncertain.

"I have several possibilities," he said. "I may teach somewhere else. I may do labor arbitration. I'll wait and see what opportunities turn up."