

Miller steps down, returns to faculty

by Stacey Savka

Even though Professor Robert L. Miller has resigned as Dean of the School of Business Administration, he said that his work at YSU is "not finished."

"I think it's time for a change. I have thought about this for a number of years but something has always come up," stated Miller.

Miller's resignation as dean will be effective at some time during the 1978-79 academic year. However, Miller will return to the faculty of the accounting and finance department.

In 1946 Miller was appointed as acting dean by YSU President Howard Jones to establish a School of Business Administration. But Miller has far surpassed this as a goal; for he has served YSU for 32 years as both a faculty member and administrator.

Miller has not only established the School of Business Administration, but has also acquired authorization to grant the B.S. in B.A. degree in 1947.

Other accomplishments that can be credited to Miller include his serving as chairman of the accounting department for 20 years, his serving as charter member of the Ohio Dean Association, and his working to establish the other departments of the School of Business and the M.B.A. program.

Presently Miller and other members of the School of Business are seeking professional accreditation for the school by the American Assembly of College Schools of Business.

Miller spent three years studying at Capital University and received his B.S. in B.A. degree in April 1945 from Ohio State,

where he later received his M.B.A. More recently, Miller has attended seminars to keep abreast of the changes in the world of business, as well as in teaching.

A Struthers native, Miller studied at the Metropolitan Opera from 1946-48 under Ralph Brown and still enjoys music. He plays the banjo and at one time was a member of a quartet of faculty members.

Nevertheless, Miller said that the 11 years ahead of him at YSU will be a change.

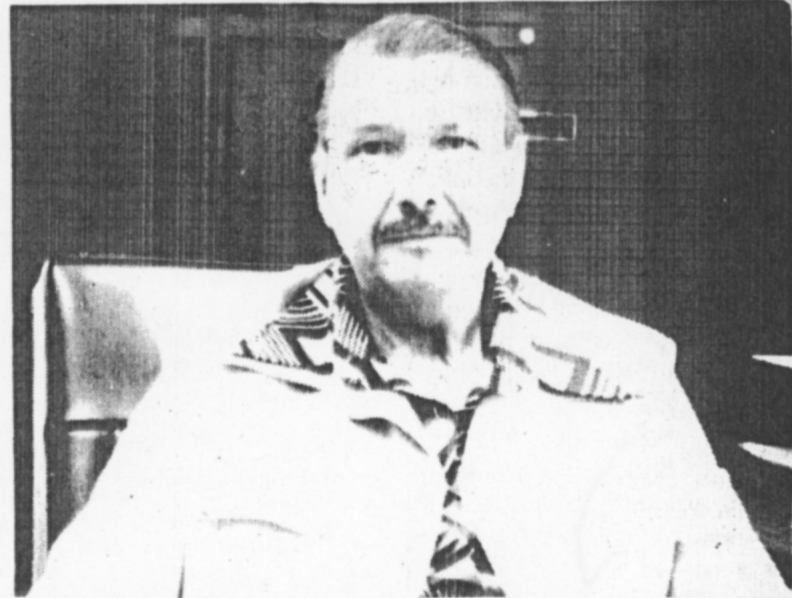
"My primary responsibility will be teaching, and maybe I'll do some writing. There are some people from all over the country who want to collaborate on a book," commented Miller.

"It's (being Dean) is just no fun anymore," said Miller. "It takes too much time to accomplish something. Everything takes so long that you end up spinning your wheels."

The School of Business Administration under Miller's guidance has grown from the departments of accounting and business organization to the present four departments, which include accounting and finance; marketing; management; and advertising and public relations.

The number of faculty members of the school has grown from a faculty of three and a half full-service employees and eight limited-service to approximately 50 full-service faculty members and from 50 to 75 limited-service.

In 1947 there were 250 students. Presently, the school has 2,882 undergraduate majors plus students enrolled in the master's program and students seeking minors for the school.



ROBERT L. MILLER — resigns as Dean of Business School since 1946.
photo by Bob Camp

According to a report by Dr. Earl Edgar, vice president for academic affairs, "...under Miller's leadership, there have been close ties between the School of Business Administration and industry..."

Miller said that during its early years of growth, the School of Business had many members from various associations and businesses as "guest lecturers." Miller explained that there are not as many guest speakers now because there is just "too little time."

To alleviate the limited course time and once again to have many guest lecturers, Miller suggested that the early semester system be adopted.

Miller plans to travel and has already visited every state of the country. However, he has never been to Europe.

Miller said that young people keep him young and perhaps by returning to the faculty he will gain more fulfillment from his life.