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**Kennedy re-elected U of I Board chairman**  
*Executive Committee, Board officers also re-elected*

CHICAGO — Christopher G. Kennedy was re-elected to a third term as [chairman](#) of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees today during its annual organizational meeting at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The board also approved all items on its agenda for its first meeting of 2012. All of the board items are listed on the Board of Trustees' website –

<http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/January%2019,%202012/>.

Kennedy was first elected chairman in 2009 and heads a 12-member board that governs the U of I and its campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield, with more than 77,000 students, 22,000 faculty and staff, and a \$5 billion annual budget.

The university made great strides over the last year, despite some of the stiffest financial challenges in its 145-year history.

More than a dozen key leadership positions were filled, including new chancellors in Urbana-Champaign and Springfield and new vice presidents for health affairs, research and academic affairs.

The board also countered a decade of state funding declines by implementing an administrative cost-containment initiative that netted more than \$26 million in annual savings in its first year – money that is being reallocated to support the university's academic and research missions.

Trustees also made moves to control student costs, adopting a new policy that seeks to limit tuition increases to the rate of inflation and launching a \$100 million fundraising campaign to boost student financial aid.

Kennedy is former president of Merchandise Mart Properties, a commercial property management firm based in Chicago. He is a member of several business and economic development organizations, including the Economic Club of Chicago, Commercial Club of Chicago and is past chairman of the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau. He also is a board member of the Catholic Theological Union and the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness. Kennedy, who was appointed to the board in 2009, received his bachelor's degree from Boston College and his MBA from Northwestern University.

The board also re-elected its three-member Executive Committee, which meets as needed to complete urgent University business that cannot be postponed to a regular, quarterly meeting. Members of the committee are Kennedy, and trustees Edward L. McMillan, of Greenville, and Pamela B. Strobel, of Winnetka.

Other U of I trustees are Ricardo Estrada, of Chicago; Karen Hasara, of Springfield; Patricia Brown Holmes, of Chicago; Timothy N. Koritz, of Roscoe; James D. Montgomery, of Chicago; and Lawrence Oliver II, of Orland Park. Student trustees are Hannah Ehrenberg from the Urbana-Champaign campus, Kenneth M. Thomas from UIC, and John W. Tienken from the Springfield campus.

Complete board and committee membership and other information are available at the Board of Trustees' website – [www.uillinois.edu/trustees/](http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/).

Trustees also re-elected Thomas R. Bearrows as University legal counsel and Walter K. Knorr as comptroller, and elected Susan M. Kies to her first term as secretary of the University. All will serve one-year terms.

Kies, a University administrator for almost two decades and Urbana-Champaign graduate, replaces Michele M. Thompson, who is retiring after a nearly 35-year career with the University and more than 21 years as secretary, a wide-ranging job that includes planning for Board and meetings and maintaining University records.

In a [resolution](#), the board praised Thompson's dedication, grace and tireless work ethic during a career that spanned four university presidents and dozens of trustees.

The board also renamed the rooms used for Board meetings in UIC's Student Center West in her honor. The Michele M. Thompson Conference Rooms A,B and C are a tribute to her "unwavering integrity, intelligent thoughtfulness and deep sense of fairness," and her work in the early 1980s on a committee that recommended consolidation of the Medical Center and Chicago Circle campuses to create UIC.

## **Appointments**

Trustees approved the appointment of Karen J. Colley as [dean](#) of the UIC Graduate College, which includes more than 6,000 graduate students who are enrolled in nearly 50 PhD programs and more than 80 masters programs.

Colley is currently a professor in the UIC Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, and associate dean for graduate research and education in the UIC College of Medicine. Henri Gillet, a UIC mathematics professor, has served as interim dean of the Graduate College since 2009, when Clark Hulse stepped down to focus on research and his duties as associate chancellor and organizer of UIC's Richard J. Daley Urban Forum.

The board also approved the appointment of Mitra Dutta as [interim vice chancellor](#) for research at UIC. Dutta, a distinguished professor and head of UIC's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, replaces Joe G.N. "Skip" Garcia, who was named the university's vice president for health affairs last year. She will serve during a national search for a new, permanent vice chancellor.

Trustees also approved the appointment of James W. Ermatinger as [interim dean](#) of the College of Education and Human Services at UIS. Ermatinger, a professor of history, also will continue to serve as dean of the UIS College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He said replaces Larry Stonecipher, who is returning to the UIS faculty as a professor of teacher education, and will serve during a national search for a new, permanent dean.

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The University of Illinois is a world leader in research and discovery, the largest educational institution in the state with more than 77,000 students, 22,000 faculty and staff, and campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield. The U of I awards more than 19,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees annually.