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*(Note to journalists: Publication-quality photographs of President B. Joseph White and Board of Trustees Chairman Niranjan S. Shah are available at [www.uillinois.edu/our/images/](http://www.uillinois.edu/our/images/).)*

July 23, 2009

**University of Illinois Statement on Admissions**  
*Statement opens Board of Trustees meeting*

CHICAGO, Ill. — Before anything else today, we—the University’s Board of Trustees and Administration leadership, as a group and with full agreement—have prepared a statement regarding the admissions problem currently facing our University.

The University’s Board of Trustees and administrators are deeply concerned about this problem. We are proud to serve this great University and the people of Illinois who entrust its care to us. We are committed to ending any misuse of the admissions process—whether it is intentional or unintentional—wherever it may exist or from whomever it may emanate, including the University Board of Trustees.

We want to assure everyone that we are working diligently to correct the problem. Publicly, we are fully cooperating with the Admissions Review Commission appointed by Governor Quinn and chaired by Judge Mikva. In addition to thousands of pages of documents, we have provided the Commission with University officials for public testimony and interviews. At the same time, internally we are conducting our own extensive review of the University’s admissions policies and procedures and examining best practices we can adopt to make our system exemplary.

Our work is guided by three principles: fairness to applicants; equality of access; and transparency in process.

Soon we will be reporting those results of our internal examination and anticipated actions to the Admissions Review Commission. In the meantime, we ask for the patience and support of everyone who has a stake in this University as we work through a focused and deliberative process that will help us create an admissions system that is transparent, free of undue influence and fair.

This public crisis will pass. But our commitment to this University and to restoring confidence in our admissions system will not waver. Be assured that our commitment is permanent and absolute.

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The University of Illinois is a world leader in research and discovery, the largest educational institution in the state with almost 70,000 students, 24,000 faculty and staff, and campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield. The U of I awards more than 18,500 undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees annually.