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Board appoints search committee to find, screen presidential candidates
Trustees will choose president from field of candidates committee recommends

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The University of Illinois Board of Trustees at its regular meeting at the University of Illinois at Springfield appointed a presidential search committee to be chaired by Trustee Pamela B. Strobel.

The 19-member Search Committee to Assist in the Selection of a President for the University of Illinois includes three trustees; eight faculty members and three students from the University's three campuses; one representative from the alumni association and one from the foundation; one administrative officer, one academic professional and one civil service representative.

While the search committee members represent all of the U of I's major constituencies, the board in its charge said that the committee members should not consider themselves as a representative of any single interest group. Rather, the members were charged to exercise their judgment as to the best interests of the University as a whole.

Board of Trustees Chairman Christopher G. Kennedy said the search committee is an able and diverse group that will work well to recommend appropriate presidential candidates to the board.

"The committee members with their varied personal characteristics, experience, careers, genders, races and geographic origins reflect the people of Illinois' proud diversity of views and perspectives," Kennedy said. "I am confident the presidential search committee will aid the board in making a wise decision on the choice of the next chief executive officer of the University of Illinois.

"We are at an important juncture in the University's history that requires strong new leadership," Kennedy said.

The trustees appointed to serve the presidential search committee are:

- Strobel is former executive vice president of the Exelon Corp. She also served as the company's chief administrative officer. She received two degrees from the University of Illinois' Urbana campus, a bachelor's degree in journalism and a law degree. She lives in Winnetka.
- Trustee Karen Hasara is a two-degree University of Illinois at Springfield alumna with a B.S. in psychology and elementary education and an M.A. in legal studies. She served as an Illinois state representative and as senator and then as mayor of Springfield. She lives in Springfield.

- Carlos Tortolero, a UIC alumnus with a B.A. in secondary education and history, founded and is president of the National Museum of Mexican Art. He formerly was a teacher, counselor and administrator in the Chicago Public Schools. He lives in Berwyn.

Professor May Berenbaum will serve as vice chair of the search committee. The faculty members appointed to serve on the presidential search committee from the Urbana-Champaign campus are:

- Berenbaum is a Swanlund Professor and former department head of entomology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She is a member of the National Academy of Science. She has served on the liberal arts and sciences' college executive committee.
- Ollie Watts Davis, a professor of music in the College of Fine and Applied Arts, is a University Scholar who formerly was chairman of the voice division. She has received campus awards for her undergraduate teaching, has served on college and campus senate committees and is a member of the campus senate.
- Matthew Wheeler is an animal sciences professor in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. He has received awards for his research and both his undergraduate and graduate teaching. He is the former chair of the campus Athletic Board and a member of many campus senate committees.

The faculty members appointed to serve on the presidential search committee from the Chicago campus are:

- Mary Beth Rose is a professor of English and director of the Institute for the Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She is a prominent scholar in English Renaissance literature and culture. She has served on search committees, including the dean of the liberal arts and sciences college at UIC.
- Brian Kay is professor and head of the biological sciences department in the College of Arts and Sciences. Formerly on the staff of the Argonne National Laboratory, he was also on the search committee for liberal arts and sciences college dean.
- Jesus Ramirez-Valles is a professor of community health sciences in the UIC School of Public Health. He is a scholar, research-grant recipient and film maker as well as a Latino and lesbian-gay-transgender-bisexual health advocate. He has served on search committees for deans and program directors.

The faculty members appointed to serve on the presidential search committee from the Springfield campus are:

- James Patrick Hall is an associate professor and director of the MBA program in the College of Business and Management at UIS. He is vice chair of the campus senate and serves on the promotions and tenure review committees, the Higher Learning Council Reaccreditation Steering Committee and the Global Campus Transition Team. He has also served on several search committees.
- Tih-Fen Ting is associate professor and former department chair of environmental studies in the College of Public Affairs and Administration at UIS. She is chair of the campus senate, chair of the Senate Executive Committee and a member of the University Senates Conference and serves on its executive committee.

The student member of the presidential search committee from the Urbana-Champaign campus is Perzavia Praylow, a doctoral student and graduate assistant in history. She has worked to promote campus diversity and worked as an intern for the National Council for Teachers of English. She was a member of the search committee for the director of the Urbana campus' Gender and Women's Studies Program.

The student member of the search committee from the Chicago campus is Anushka Anand, a doctoral student in the computer science department in the College of Engineering. She has completed internships with Motorola and Reuters and served as secretary of the Graduate Student Council.

The student member of the presidential search committee from the Springfield campus is Charles Olivier, an undergraduate accountancy and business administration major. He is a student representative to the campus senate, vice president of the Student Government Association, president of the Black Student Union and a member of the Undergraduate Council. His volunteer-service organizational affiliations include the Springfield Overflow Shelter, AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Community Service.

Gery Chico, vice chairman and chairman-elect of the University of Illinois Alumni Association, will represent the alumni association. He is a UIC alumnus, an attorney and senior partner with Chico & Nunes, P.C. Formerly he was chief of staff for Mayor Richard M. Daley, a board member of the Chicago Urban League and Scholarship Chicago, president of the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners and a trustee of DePaul University.

Jane Phillips Donaldson, board member and chair-elect of the U of I Foundation, will represent the foundation. Donaldson is a two-degree Urbana campus alumna with a B.S. in the teaching of English and an M.S. in journalism. She is co-founder and partner of Phillips Oppenheim, New York, an executive search firm for non-profit organizations. She is past director of the APT Foundation, the Financial Services Fellowship Program, the Toigo Foundation and the MacDowell Colony.

Dr. Joseph A. Flaherty, dean of the UIC College of Medicine, is the administrative officer on the presidential search committee. He is a professor and former department head of psychiatry. Flaherty received his medical training at UIC where he also did his internship in pediatrics and a residency in psychiatry. He had additional research training in social psychiatry at UIC and in sociology at London University.

Marelet Kirda, assistant to the vice chancellor of research at UIC and a two-degree UIC alumna, is the academic professional on the search committee. She has held UIC positions in student affairs, admissions, academic affairs and academic advising. She is a member of the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Asian-Americans and the College of Education Alumni Board.

Paula Adametz Hays, assistant to the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the Urbana campus, is the civil service representative. The Urbana campus alumna has received the LAS Nancy J. McCowen Distinguished Service Award and the Chancellor's Distinguished Staff Award.

The board has also contracted with national executive research search firm Isaacson, Miller to provide services to the University in identifying prospective candidates for the position of president.

The search committee's first assignment is to develop a white paper outlining the nature of the University, the role of the president, challenges and expectations the next president may face and personal qualifications necessary for the position. The Office of the Board of Trustees will create a presidential search Web site, including the white paper, a position announcement and description, call for nominations, search committee members, news releases, announcement of open candidate forums and search firm contact information.

Key expectations of the successful candidate are leadership experience in leading and managing a large, complex academic organization; a commitment to academic excellence in teaching, research and service; the ability to communicate with the University's external and internal constituencies; an understanding of the changing nature of higher education and its roles in local, state, regional and national economies; the ability to adapt to changing and challenging fiscal environments; and the experience to bring clarity and rationality to a complex administrative structure.

The search committee was further charged to identify and screen potential candidates. The chair and the vice chair will lead an effort to contact individuals who know the prospective candidates' personal qualities, professional experience and potential. The search committee will present a final list of eight to 10 presidential candidates to the Board of Trustees. The board is statutorily charged with the choice of the new president. The goal is to have a new president in place by July 1, 2010, or at the latest when the fall 2010 academic year begins.

President B. Joseph White has submitted his resignation effective Dec. 31, 2009. The trustees at an Oct. 3 special meeting appointed Stanley O. Ikenberry interim president, effective Jan. 1, 2010. He will serve as interim president designate until the Board of Trustees names a new president. Ikenberry was the University of Illinois president from 1979-95.

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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 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.