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News Release

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University of Illinois Board of Trustees committee to review personnel

Trustees Oliver, Hasara and McMillan will report to Board

CHICAGO, Ill. — A committee of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees will review the performance of University personnel in connection with admissions irregularities at the Urbana-Champaign campus, part of a process recommended by the Illinois Admissions Review Commission in its final report last month.

The initial step in complying with the Commission's recommendations took place last week when the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution that spelled out specific admissions reforms by the University.

The formation of a three-member *ad hoc* Board committee for the personnel review was announced today by Board Chair Christopher G. Kennedy. He said the committee will consist of Trustees Lawrence Oliver, Karen Hasara and Ed McMillan, who will meet periodically over the next 60 days and subsequently report back to the full Board. Trustee Oliver will serve as Chair of the committee.

The Admissions Review Commission, appointed by Gov. Pat Quinn in June, recommended on Aug. 6 that a newly reconstituted Board of Trustees should conduct "a thorough and expeditious review of the conduct of the University president, (Urbana campus) chancellor and other university administrators" in connection with the so-called "Category I" controversy. The Board should then take "any and all appropriate personnel action based on its review," the Commission said in its recommendation.

Kennedy, president of the Merchandise Mart in Chicago, was elected chair of the Board by his colleagues at a meeting in Urbana last Thursday. Trustees also adopted measures to reform admissions practices and ensure openness, fairness and an end to any special influence.

Trustees met in executive session at Thursday's meeting to discuss leadership, personnel and related issues that face the University. "The Board has a plan for addressing those issues in an orderly, fair and prompt manner. Our committee will conduct a thorough, intensive review and analysis and, as part of that process, will receive valued input from various University constituents, including the campus governing bodies. The committee then will make recommendations to the full Board regarding the University's leadership," Kennedy said. "The committee consists of trustees with extensive experience in both legal and employment issues.

And it includes proven business and community leaders who well understand the critical importance of leadership to the University at this time."

Kennedy said the committee will be staffed by university legal and human resources personnel, and that it will comply with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is Nov. 12.

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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.