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**Susan M. Kies appointed Secretary of the Board and U of I**  
*Longtime administrator will work with Board, University*

URBANA, Ill.— Susan M. Kies, a veteran administrator who has held positions at the University of Illinois for nearly two decades, has been appointed Secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University, President Michael J. Hogan announced Wednesday.

Kies, a graduate of the University's Urbana-Champaign campus, will begin her new duties pending approval by the Board at its Dec. 2 meeting in Springfield and following a period of overlap to gain background on the responsibilities of the position. She will replace Michele Thompson, who is retiring after 21 years as secretary, a wide-ranging post that includes planning for Board and Board committee meetings, maintaining the minutes, records and major documents of the Board, responding to requests from the public, providing assistance and advice to other administrators and assisting the trustees in their work for the University.

“Susan is a proven leader who knows the University well and has the special experience of working closely with the campuses at Urbana-Champaign and Chicago through her years in the College of Medicine. She has the benefit of knowing the University from several vantage points – as a student, as an administrator and as a teacher,” Hogan said. “Her skills and experience are a perfect match for this important new chapter in her distinguished career and will serve our great University well.”

Since 2004, Kies has served as associate dean of academic affairs/curriculum management for the College of Medicine in Urbana-Champaign. The College of Medicine is based on the UIC campus. Kies was responsible for helping coordinate curriculum and providing faculty support for undergraduate medical education. She is also an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and a clinical associate professor in the Department of Pathology in the College of Medicine in Urbana-Champaign.

“Susan Kies impressed me and my colleagues on the search committee as the person who could serve well as the next Secretary of the Board and of the University,”

said Board Chairman Christopher G. Kennedy. “Her deep experience and commitment to managing and helping to ensure quality in academic programs in the College of Medicine in Urbana-Champaign, her awareness of the importance of intercampus cooperation, which the College of Medicine exemplifies, and her energy and enthusiasm for the University as a whole were characteristics we were delighted to find. We look forward to a strong collegial working relationship and to drawing on Susan’s terrific experience within the University as the Board tackles challenges ahead.”

Kies earned her bachelor’s degree from the Urbana-Champaign campus in 1978 and later earned her master’s and doctor of education degrees from Oklahoma State University.

She joined the U of I in 1993 as coordinator of instructional development for the Department of Internal Medicine in Urbana-Champaign, and later was promoted to assistant dean of educational affairs. From 1999 to 2003, she served as associate dean for academic student and educational affairs at the College of Medicine in Urbana-Champaign.

In her current position, Kies is responsible for reporting to the accreditation committee for the College of Medicine in Urbana-Champaign; communicating with all campuses of the College of Medicine regarding policies and other curricular issues; advising new faculty and students; developing and teaching a course for first-year students; and developing workshops to assist students with residency placement.

Kies, who also has written two books and more than two dozen scholarly papers, said she is excited to begin her new post and expand her contributions to the University.

“I am thrilled and honored to be working with the Board of Trustees and the president,” she said. “When I saw this opportunity, I felt very strongly this was a chance to serve the University at a higher level.

“I am a proud alumna and truly love the University of Illinois. I am impressed with the intelligence and passion the Board and president bring to the table as they lead the University,” Kies said. “They understand that as a University what we do is ultimately to make the lives of people and state of Illinois better. I look forward to helping support and serve the University in its mission.”

As secretary of the Board and University, Kies will be one of four officers of the Board of Trustees. She will report to the Board chair and president and have responsibilities to all Board members, including coordinating agendas for all meetings of the Board and its committees.

Hogan thanked members of the search committee, led by Trustee James Montgomery.

Thompson will retire in January after 34 years with the University, including 21 years as secretary. She worked in various administrative positions before she became secretary in 1990, and has since served four presidents.

“It’s hard to even imagine the University without Michele,” Hogan said. “She has served with distinction and unfailing grace, and we will sorely miss her wisdom, kindness, herculean work ethic and her unwavering loyalty.”

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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 79,000 students, 24,000 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.