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Trustees approve FY2012 budget, administrative appointments
\$5 billion budget represents 5 percent increase from FY2011

URBANA, Ill. — The University of Illinois Board of Trustees on Friday approved a \$5 billion proposed budget for fiscal 2012, as well as the appointments of several senior administrators.

The \$5 billion fiscal 2012 budget for all three campuses – Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield – represents a 5 percent increase from fiscal 2011. The budget includes a \$693 million direct state appropriation for operating costs, and an estimated \$793 million in “payments on behalf” that the state will pay directly to agencies to cover employee health and pension benefits. The budget also includes \$939 million from the University Income Fund, made up primarily of tuition dollars.

The budget, discussed at an Aug. 31 meeting of the Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee, also reflects \$26 million in recurring savings as a result of a university-wide cost saving initiative, launched in 2009.

In addition to the fiscal 2012 budget, the board approved the budget request for the fiscal 2013 year, which begins July 1, 2012. The request seeks an additional \$83 million in state funding, an increase of 5 percent over fiscal 2012. The request, the first step in the annual budget process, will be submitted to the Illinois Board of Higher Education for consideration.

More on the budget is online: <http://www.uillinois.edu/our/news/2011/Aug31.2012Budget.cfm>

Appointments

The board approved the appointment of Phyllis M. Wise as vice president of the University of Illinois and chancellor of the Urbana-Champaign campus. Wise will begin her position on Oct. 1. She will replace Interim Vice President and Chancellor Robert Easter.

Wise has served in senior leadership roles at three major public research universities and is currently provost and executive vice president at the University of Washington, where she has served since 2005. During the just-completed 2010-11 academic year, Wise was the interim president at the University of Washington.

The board also approved a resolution honoring Easter, retiring interim vice president and interim chancellor of the Urbana-Champaign campus. The resolution noted Easter’s “decisive and unifying leadership.” The former dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and

Environmental Sciences and a professor animal sciences, Easter has served the campus for 38 years.

Lawrence B. Schook's appointment as vice president for research was also approved by the board. Schook has served as interim vice president for research since March when the position was created as part of a senior administrative realignment to streamline and strengthen the university's research mission.

As vice president for research, Schook serves as the senior research officer of the university and advises the president on matters of research, intellectual property, technology commercialization, economic development activities and other matters designated by the president. Schook manages the university's nearly \$800 million research enterprise.

Christophe Pierre's appointment as vice president for academic affairs also was approved by the board. Pierre has served as dean of the Faculty of Engineering at McGill University in Quebec since 2005. He will begin at the University of Illinois on Oct. 16. He will replace current Vice President for Academic Affairs Mrinalini C. Rao, who has held the position since 2007.

Pierre holds a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures de Paris in France, a master's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Princeton University, and a doctorate in mechanical engineering and materials science from Duke University.

The board also approved the appointment of Mike Thomas, former athletic director at the University of Cincinnati, to athletic director of the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics on the Urbana-Champaign campus.

Thomas has led the successful Bearcats athletic program since 2005, winning five Big East team titles, an NCAA individual championship, producing 12 All-Americans in a wide range of sports and earning multiple Big East academic excellence awards.

Thomas has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Colorado State University, and a master's degree in athletic administration from Western Illinois University. He succeeds Ron Guenther as director of the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics.

For more information on appointments, see <http://www.uillinois.edu/our/news/>.

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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.