

NEWS RELEASE

**U of I trustees dismiss professor**

*Veteran faculty member's termination effective immediately*

Nov. 14, 2013. SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The University of Illinois Board of Trustees on Thursday dismissed a tenured professor on its Urbana-Champaign campus following allegations that he violated the privacy rights of University students and repeatedly ignored warnings to cease this conduct.

Trustees voted unanimously to remove engineering professor Louis Wozniak's tenure and terminate his employment, effective immediately. The board dismissed Wozniak under University statutes, after finding "clear and convincing" evidence that he "can no longer be relied on to perform his university duties and functions in a manner consonant with professional standards of competence and responsibility."

Tenure is an employment policy intended to preserve academic freedom and protects professors from being terminated without just cause. Wozniak had been a tenured faculty member as an Associate Professor of Engineering on the Urbana-Champaign campus since 1972.

The Board stated: "Tenure is a matter of fundamental importance to the University of Illinois. . . . The University awards tenure very selectively and it is rare for situations to emerge in which revocation of tenure is considered. We do not consider revocation of tenure lightly."

In reaching its conclusion, the Board reviewed the recommendations of faculty who previously considered Prof. Wozniak's actions, including the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, the Grievance Committee of the College of Engineering, the Faculty Advisory Committee, and members of the Faculty Senate.

The Board also found that due to the gravity of the misconduct involved Prof. Wozniak's dismissal would be immediate.

"There is nothing more fundamental to the mission of a university than to protect its relationships with its students. This includes ensuring that student confidences are maintained and that information is not published about them without the consent required by University policies. Every student of this University deserves nothing less than our complete and unwavering support of these policies. Prof. Wozniak has refused to meet this most basic understanding. His termination, therefore, must be effective immediately."

Wozniak, an associate professor in the Department of Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering, is a graduate of the Urbana-Champaign campus and had been a faculty member since 1967.

Report of the Board of Trustees:

<http://www.trustees.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/November-14-2013/001-nov-Wozniak-Report--FINAL.pdf>

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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 78,000 students, more than 23,000 faculty and staff, and campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield. The U of I awards more than 20,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees annually.

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