

Board Meeting
January 15, 2009

APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR INTERIM CHANCELLOR ERIC A. GISLASON

To Eric Gislason

As you retire from the University of Illinois, the Board of Trustees wishes to salute you for your many accomplishments and express its gratitude for your important contributions as Interim Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago and previous service at UIC as Vice Chancellor for Research, Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Professor and Head of the Department of Chemistry.

After receiving your doctorate in Chemical Physics from Harvard University and serving a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of California-Berkeley, you have spent your entire academic career at UIC, where you distinguished yourself as a teacher, researcher, and administrator. Your 129 scholarly publications and many nominations and awards for teaching excellence only begin to illuminate your stature as one of the most respected and beloved faculty members on the UIC campus.

As you rose through the ranks at UIC and became acting head and then head of Chemistry, your research focusing on theoretical studies of energy transfer and reaction in collisions of small molecules earned you many distinctions and membership on four national committees. Your exemplary administrative leadership continued when you were asked to serve as Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Among your greatest contributions to UIC came in your role as UIC's Vice Chancellor for Research. Named to the interim role in 1999 in the midst of a crisis, at a time when UIC, like many top U.S. research institutions, was faced with the suspension of its human subjects research license by federal regulators, you led an overhaul of its system for protection of participants in research trials. You undertook this revamping with a clearly articulated goal of devising a system that was not merely compliant, but exemplary. Eleven months after being sanctioned, UIC saw its restrictions lifted, and--true to your pledge--its corrective actions were lauded by the federal authorities. You also helped achieve a dramatic increase in federally funded research at UIC, which now ranks 49th in the nation in receipt of federal research funds. During this time, UIC's growth in research expenditures was one of the most dramatic increases in the nation.

When Sylvia Manning stepped down as Chancellor at the end of 2007, your selection as Interim Chancellor was greeted with acclaim--a testament to the respect and admiration you enjoy among your colleagues all across the campus and, indeed, among the entire University of Illinois community. During your year of devoted service as Interim Chancellor, you have demonstrated the same steady, thoughtful, engaged, and compassionate leadership style that has always been your hallmark.

Your contributions to the University of Illinois are a lasting legacy and will long be remembered.

At this time the University, the Board of Trustees, the President, faculty members, students, and staff extend warm wishes to you and your wife, Sharon Fetzer Gislason, who retired as a Lecturer in Chemistry, and to your family. We also express

deep appreciation to you for 39 years of dedicated service and inspired leadership at the University of Illinois.