

Board Meeting
January 21, 2010

REVISE UNIVERSITY VICTIMS ECONOMIC SECURITY AND SAFETY ACT
POLICY

Action: Approve Revisions to University Policy to Comply with the Victims Economic Security and Safety Act of 2003 and as Amended in 2009

Funding: No New Funding Required

The University's Victims Economic Security and Safety Act Policy became effective in June 2004, to comply with the Victims Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA) of 2003. On August 24, 2009, the Illinois General Assembly amended the Victims Economic Security and Safety Act of 2003.

Revisions to the University policy are required to comply with the amendments to the Victims Economic Security and Safety Act. The most significant changes include changes in definitions for: (1) "domestic violence," which now mirrors the definition of abuse by a family or household member outlined in Section 103 of the Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986; and (2) "family or household member," which has been extended from "spouse, parent, son, daughter" to also include "other person related by blood or by present or prior marriage" and "other person who shares a relationship through a son or daughter." Details were also added regarding reasonable accommodation. Additionally, other minor language changes are recommended to clarify processes and procedures.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President/Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller recommends approval of the revisions to the University Policy on Victims Economic Security and Safety Act to comply with the State Victims Economic Security and Safety Act set forth in the attached document.

The Interim President of the University concurs.