

Board Meeting
January 31, 2019

RESOLUTION FOR PATRICK J. FITZGERALD

In your six years as a member of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, your legal expertise and profound sense of fairness and equity have combined to lift our global reputation for excellence and our appeal as a go-to destination for top students and faculty.

The U of I System's rich legacy of achievement is firmly rooted in the generations of talented people who have worked and studied here, and people have been at the center of your priorities throughout your term.

You have shared your time generously to participate in administrative searches to help build the world-class leadership team that is steering us toward the ambitious goals of the Strategic Framework that you authorized and approved.

As Chair of the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee, you took on a key role in our human resources policies. During a time of turmoil concerning hiring practices, you tackled one of the largest tasks: the creation and implementation of a background check policy for new faculty, academic professionals, and Civil Service employees at all three universities. Your thoughtful guidance expanded an existing policy that had only required background checks for those working with children or in

high-security areas, with a focus that ensures campus safety as well as fairness and the value of “a second chance.”

You brought that same spirit of compassion and justice to the Sexual Misconduct Task Force that was assigned by President Easter. You gave countless hours to the effort by participating in discussions and taking time to review many drafts, monitoring policies closely to maintain the delicate balance between personal rights and keeping our students safe.

A special benefit to us all has been the manner in which you approach problems: with a clear sense of integrity and a unique ability to absorb the background, ask questions, and then express your opinion clearly and concisely. Your integrity has touched all of the policies that the Board enacted and was expected to abide by during your term, and your sensitivity to conflict of interest has provided a valuable lesson for all of your colleagues.

That same approach has helped guide our academic programs. Your service on the University Healthcare System Committee was instrumental, including your perspective on risks that led to higher accountability to the Board for physician credentialing.

You also broadened our discussions to create a new College of Medicine at Urbana, through probing questions that helped all understand the undertaking the Board was being asked to consider. And then later, your insights were invaluable in bringing a new law school to the University of Illinois at Chicago, describing potential successes and possible failures for all to weigh in their deliberations.

At this time, the members of the Board, joined by President Killeen, as well as the officers, faculty, students, and staff of the University wish to pay tribute to you for your distinguished service and extend best wishes to you, your wife, Jennifer, and your sons.

The Board of Trustees directs that this resolution be incorporated into the minutes of today's meeting, to become a part of the official public record, and that a suitable copy be given to you as a permanent reminder of the esteem in which you are held.