

Board Meeting  
July 21, 2011

APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR MRINALINI C. RAO

To: Mrinalini (Meena) C. Rao

You will be remembered with gratitude for your notable contributions to the University and for serving in the role of vice president for academic affairs, since July 2007. Working with the chancellors and provosts of the University, you have provided leadership in defining and shaping strategic academic priorities for the University, leading key academic initiatives, and guiding important academic policy.

Your work is distinguished by your efforts to increase diversity throughout the University, and this commitment to diversity, in all of its forms, has been soundly grounded in a fundamental belief of fairness and opportunity for all human beings. Particularly significant is your strong belief that an institutional commitment to diversity benefits all students.

Emblematic of your untiring efforts are: the leadership you provided to funding and operating the Diversifying Faculty Initiative through the Illinois Board of Higher Education; the Diversity Task Force you established, composed of representation from each campus and University administration; the Diversity Summits you organized wherein the campuses' faculty, administration, staff, and student leadership were brought

together for ongoing conversations about diversity and how the University might better support and foster it; and, finally the strategic changes you spearheaded to the President's Award Program to make it more effective for recruiting and increasing the success of its students.

One of the constants throughout your tenure as vice president for academic affairs was ensuring all parties affected had a voice in important discussions. Often you were the conduit for bringing faculty together for cross-campus discussions with administration. Your voice has been clear, as has your conviction that all constituencies must be engaged in crucial decisions.

In addition to your responsibilities as an administrator, you have continued to be a scientist and an educator as Professor of Physiology and Biophysics and Professor of Medicine, College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Your teaching has been recognized with UIC's Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Teaching Recognition Program Award, and the Philip Hawley Distinguished Faculty Award from the Department of Physiology and Biophysics. Being an accomplished teacher, with an intense interest in students' success, you have personally been a mentor to innumerable grateful students. You have maintained an active research laboratory, conducting important research on cholera in an effort to discover better treatment and prevention of this deadly disease. You have committed yourself to expanding the knowledge base of the health sciences for application to the betterment of peoples' lives.

As a person, Dr. Rao, you are engaging, energetic, outgoing, articulate, well-informed, and interested in working collaboratively on projects. Atop your

passionate belief in higher education's power to transform lives is a demeanor of respect, collegiality, and a quiet earnestness -- plus a sense of humor -- that make people happy to work with you. Meena, your unselfish caring, consideration, support, and nurturing of others is always in evidence.

Your life experiences, cross-cultural awareness, professional stature, and outstanding personal qualities continue to enrich and enliven the University. Your excellent sense of priorities and your persistence have produced meaningful change throughout the University.

It is noteworthy, Dr. Rao, that you have brought an extraordinary combination of commitment and effectiveness to the administration of academic affairs, to your research in the department of Physiology and Biophysics, and to your teaching as a faculty member in the College of Medicine. The Board wishes to express its appreciation to you for your service as an exemplary administrator and faculty member of the University of Illinois.

At this time the Board of Trustees, President Michael J. Hogan, faculty members, students, and staff members extend warm wishes to you, Dr. Strohl, and your family.