

Approved by the Board of Trustees
March 12, 2015

1

Board Meeting
March 12, 2015

RESOLUTION FOR CHRISTOPHER G. KENNEDY

To: Christopher G. Kennedy

For the past six years, you have generously served as Chairman of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees and succeeded in distinguishing yourself as a well-informed trustee through investing extraordinary amounts of time working to understand the multitude of issues that affect our very complex University. As you transitioned into the role of trustee, you used your business acumen to focus upon the budgetary needs that are of primary importance to the University. Your insightful advice to the administration on investments and financial matters, always given with encouragement and recognition of staff expertise, has proven invaluable.

Over the years, your intellectual curiosity has been admirable; always coupled with encouragement and support for faculty and administration. This has made for gratifying exchanges with faculty, staff, and students, especially those who are part of the University Senates Conference and the campus Senates. Your discussions with these groups concerning such topics as shared governance and academic freedom have inspired faculty and administrators to create a more unified atmosphere at the University.

You have drawn the attention of Illinois' citizens to the need to retain in our State our young researchers and brilliant students. You have encouraged everyone in our State to recruit graduates who can reinvent society over and over again, with new ideas that create new companies, which hire new employees, who pay taxes, which support

schools, which educate a whole new generation ready to begin the cycle again. You have shown us that research universities are economic engines that drive innovation and that they are key to Illinois' capacity to beat back the forces of consolidation, engage in economic development, create jobs, provide careers, and protect our future as the greatest State in America.

You brought a personal knowledge of the importance of politics and organization of people and concepts when the University was vying for a federal grant to create a research center for digital-manufacturing technology that would draw researchers from the top universities and corporations in the Midwest to Chicago. Your leadership helped secure the grant.

Your devotion to educating a broader economically diverse faculty, staff, and student population is admirable. You have been a champion in creating a diverse population at the University of Illinois. From the beginning of your term as trustee, you have encouraged students from the Chicago Public Schools to consider enrolling at the University of Illinois; advocated that faculty and staff from underrepresented minorities explore the possibilities of teaching and doing research at the University of Illinois; and sought to make the University a welcoming and friendly place. These are a few of many examples of your dedication to increasing diversity at the University of Illinois.

The record you leave for your service as the Chair of the Board is one of great devotion to the University coupled with remarkable good humor and friendship extended freely to all you encountered.

The President and University officers, faculty members, students, and staff members join with the Board in this tribute to you and extend best wishes to you, your wife, Sheila, and your family.

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