

Board Meeting
May 20, 2010

RESOLUTION FOR STANLEY O. IKENBERRY

Stanley O. Ikenberry, Ph.D., is a renowned figure in American higher education for exemplary service in teaching, research, and university leadership. This service includes the presidency of the American Council on Education. The University of Illinois has had the extraordinary good fortune of having the executive leadership and guidance of Dr. Ikenberry for two periods in the last three decades.

In both of these tenures Dr. Ikenberry faced crises in funding for the University that threatened the University's preeminence as a major research university. By dint of his enthusiasm and remarkable insight, he undertook reviews of the University's organization and processes with the goal of strengthening its structure and leadership.

In October 2009, the Board of Trustees, with a majority of new members, invited Dr. Ikenberry to return to the University of Illinois presidency to assist in rebuilding confidence in the University following a reputational controversy involving admissions practices. Dr. Ikenberry's stature as a national leader in higher education and his intimate knowledge of the University of Illinois made him an ideal choice to provide guidance at a time of distress. The challenge became greater because of the dire fiscal situation in the State.

The members of the Board of Trustees are immensely grateful to Dr. Ikenberry for responding to their invitation to lend his remarkable knowledge of American higher education, the State of Illinois, and his personal creditability with the alumni, faculty and staff, as well as elected officials and leaders in many arenas. His unique acumen for university leadership, and his gentle guidance of the Board have enabled the trustees to make critical decisions that have far-reaching consequences.

Our appreciation is deep and our indebtedness to Dr. Ikenberry is boundless. Having Stanley Ikenberry at the helm of the University of Illinois has repeatedly proven to be a special factor in sustaining and strengthening the institution. His enthusiasm, optimism, and humane approach to all matters, both joyful and troublesome, have increased the devotion of all of the Board members to our beloved and outstanding University.

The Trustees also take this opportunity to express their admiration and gratitude to Judith Life Ikenberry for her willingness to assist the Board and the University in innumerable ways with warmth and great skill.

THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees, as well as the University officers, faculty and staff, and students of the University of Illinois convey to Stanley O. Ikenberry their profound appreciation and that of the citizens of Illinois and beyond, for sharing his unparalleled abilities with the University of Illinois.