

Board Meeting
September 9, 2011

APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS, AND INTERIM CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, ROBERT A. EASTER

To: Bob Easter

As you prepare to retire from the University of Illinois after almost four decades of distinguished service, the Board of Trustees wishes to honor you and express its deepest gratitude and respect for your many achievements and historic contributions as Interim Vice President, University of Illinois, and Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Interim Provost, and previously as Dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

As Interim Vice President and Chancellor at the Urbana-Champaign campus, you will be remembered for your decisive and unifying leadership. You conducted the most thorough self-examination of the Urbana campus in modern times under the Stewarding Excellence@Illinois program, leading to permanent and crucial cost-cutting and efficiency measures. Dr. Easter, you have left this campus in better shape than when you took over its leadership.

Also, in your role, you brilliantly negotiated the University through complex budget and public relations challenges and, at the same time, successfully

worked with an almost entirely new Board of Trustees and a new University of Illinois President.

You traveled on the University's behalf to Singapore, China, Brazil, India, Mexico, and throughout the United States and Canada, building the University of Illinois' world-wide brand while strengthening the University's international reputation. You solidified our seminal research collaboration with the Singapore government, you represented this University at historical occasions such as the 100th anniversary of China's Tsinghua University, and you led the first chancellor-level delegation to India in more than 15 years.

You performed your duties with passion and intelligence, and with the highest level of ethical standards, thus setting an example to all University and State employees. And, we note with gratitude, that you answered the call of service and delayed your own retirement plans for two years to lead the University.

Your 38-year legacy is indeed singular. As Dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) from 2002 to 2009, you again represented the Urbana campus with distinction. In 2006, President George W. Bush appointed you to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) and in 2007 you were appointed chair of BIFAD. Your service on numerous boards of directors of professional associations and educational organizations is very impressive. You also won numerous awards in your time as Dean, including an Honorary State FFA Degree by the Illinois Association of the FFA (2005). As part of your vision for the College of ACES, you also established the theme for ACES: *Global*

Preeminence, Local Relevance which continues to be the foundation for establishing programs of excellence within the college.

The Board also extends its gratitude to Cheryl Easter for her grace and congeniality on campus, in the community, and throughout the nation as she also represented the University at the many events at which she accompanied you in your duties.

Dr. Easter, the Board of Trustees thanks you and congratulates you on the completion of an exemplary stewardship of our flagship campus and we wish you continued success and good health in all your future endeavors.