

# Trustees' meeting to include candidate interviews

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The search for the next University of Illinois president is winding down, with candidate interviews scheduled next week.

UI trustees have a day-long meeting Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago for university employment or appointment matters. The session is closed to the public. University spokesman Tom Hardy would not confirm any details about the agenda.

But it's customary for trustees

to hold interviews for high-level positions off-campus in Chicago, near the airport, to make it convenient for candidates and to preserve confidentiality.

Trustee Karen Hasara confirmed that the board was interviewing candidates but said she didn't know how many.

The board's regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday at the UI Chicago campus, but Hasara didn't think the board would announce a decision that quickly. The agenda does not include any items related to a presidential appointment.

The search for President Bob Easter's successor began last spring and is scheduled to wrap up by Thanksgiving. Easter plans to retire by June 30.

The 19-member presidential search committee, which planned to recommend several candidates to the board, met in a two-day closed session at a hotel near the airport on

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Oct. 22-23, presumably to interview candidates.

Search committee co-chairman Doug Beck, a UI physics professor, at the time declined to say how many people were still under consideration. The list of candidates started with 200 names but had

been reduced to a much smaller pool, he said.

Beck and his committee co-chairwoman, Trustee Pamela Strobel, could not be reached for comment Friday afternoon.

Trustees originally said they wanted the new president chosen by Jan. 1 so he or she would have plenty of time to transition into the

job before Easter leaves. Officials said they accelerated the timeline so the next president could participate in picking a Chicago chancellor to replace Paula Meares, who plans to step down in January.

"We're looking for a good leader with a strong background in academics and leadership, and someone who has a lot of energy and gets along well with people," Hasara said.

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