

Executive Committee Meeting  
April 8, 2008

## APPROVE HONORARY DEGREE, URBANA

**Action:** Approve the Award of Honorary Doctorate Degree

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Senate of the Urbana-Champaign campus has recommended that an honorary degree be conferred on the following person at the Commencement Exercises on May 11, 2008:

**Mannie Jackson, Humanitarian, Business Leader, Philanthropist**--the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Mr. Jackson, a University of Illinois alumnus, is a successful self-made individual and entrepreneur. After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in physical education at Illinois, Mr. Jackson spent a year with the Harlem Globetrotters before starting his career at Honeywell, Inc. While at Honeywell, he completed a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Detroit and an advanced management program at Harvard University. As the first African American senior executive at Honeywell he went on to serve as President and General Manager of Honeywell's Telecommunications Business before retiring as Corporate Officer and Senior Vice President. He has served on the Board of Directors of six Fortune 500 companies and is currently Chairman of Boxcar Holdings, LLC. One of his holdings is the Harlem Globetrotters, which he purchased in 1993, rescuing the famous sports team from bankruptcy and restoring it to its market leading position. In 1986, Mr. Jackson helped found the Executive Leadership Council which represents the most senior African American corporate executives in Fortune 500 companies. His humanitarian efforts include significant contributions to support victims of the September 11, 2001, World Trade Center tragedy, the tsunami in Southeast Asian, and victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita through his support of the American Red Cross and UNICEF. Through his work with the Harlem Globetrotters, he helped secure over \$2.0 million for the Nelson Mandela African Children's Foundation. The National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee, presented Mr. Jackson with its inaugural International Award in recognition

of his years of commitment in promoting human rights throughout the world. Mr. Jackson has made significant gifts to his hometown YMCA in Edwardsville, Illinois.

The Chancellor at Urbana concurs in the recommendation.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The President of the University recommends approval.