Approved by the Board of Trustees

January 18, 2024

**03**

Board Meeting

January 18, 2024

APPOINT UNIVERSITY COUNSEL,

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

**Action:** Appoint University Counsel

**Funding:** State Appropriated Funds

Following a four-month national search led by a search committee[[1]](#footnote-1), with the assistance of the executive search firm Academic Search, the president of the University of Illinois System recommends with pleasure the appointment of Scott Edward Rice, presently deputy University counsel, as University counsel (general counsel), Office of University Counsel, University of Illinois System. This is an academic professional appointment, non-tenured, on a twelve-month service basis, on 100 percent time, at an annual salary of $415,000, beginning January 22, 2024. Mr. Rice was appointed to serve as interim University counsel (general counsel) under the same conditions and salary arrangement beginning January 1, 2024.

Mr. Rice will succeed Thomas Bearrows, who served as University counsel since 1997.

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 of Illinois System seeks your approval.

(A biographical sketch follows.)

SCOTT EDWARD RICE

Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, BA, 1995

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, JD, 2001

Professional and Other Experience

Office of the Governor, Springfield, IL, 1995-1997, Travel Aide; 1997-1998, Assistant to the Governor

Supreme Court of the State of Illinois, Springfield, IL, 2001-2003, Judicial Clerk

Fox Development Corporation, Champaign, IL, 2003, Director of Community and Business Development

Farnsworth Group, Inc, Champaign, IL, 2003-2005, Legal Affairs and Business Development

University of Illinois System, 2005-2007, Assistant University Counsel; 2007-2009, Associate University Counsel; 2009-2011, Senior Associate University Counsel; 2011-2019 and 2021, Campus Legal Counsel; 2019-date, Deputy University Counsel

1. Nicholas P. Jones, *Chair,* executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs, University of Illinois System, *chair*; Robert A. Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago; Nicky Boothe, professor and dean, UIC School of Law, Chicago; Paul N. Ellinger, vice president/chief financial officer and comptroller, University of Illinois System; Jeffrey A. Stein, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University; Celest Weuve, University Senates Conference; and Jami M. Painter, senior associate vice president and chief human resources officer, University of Illinois System [↑](#footnote-ref-1)