

Approved by the Board of Trustees,
January 20, 2005

Board Meeting
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Revised

RESOLUTION FOR JAMES J. STUKEL

To: James J. Stukel

When James J. Stukel became the fifteenth President of the University in 1995 fulfilling the promise displayed many years before as graduate student and faculty member, he took the helm of the University at a time of ferment brought on by a need for broad sweeping change to position the University for future accomplishments. Always a leader, President Stukel's administrative journey has been characterized as one of choices that helped propel the University into new stages of excellence. First as Associate Dean in the College of Engineering at the Urbana campus, then as Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate College at the Chicago campus where he launched a first rate research support program for faculty and later as Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs during which time he worked to advance the stature of the Chicago campus to Chancellor at Chicago, James Stukel has orchestrated major changes that positioned the University to meet challenges both local and national with strength. A legacy for the Chicago campus of the Stukel years is the Great Cities Institute, dedicated to melding University research with needs of the urban environment.

From dealing with the pressure to provide modern administrative systems for the University to responding to demands for downsizing brought about by reduced

State resources, he has always responded with the admonition to preserve quality in all the University undertakes. Though tensions and concerns loomed due to the need to accomplish more with less, President Stukel met these with calm reassurance and sensitive missives sent regularly to faculty and staff to express appreciation and to give praise for great effort expended to maintain quality.

He led the University from the twentieth to the twenty first century with vigor and with a determination that the University of Illinois would continue to be a leader in American public higher education, spurring innovations such as online courses and collaboration with government and industry for advancement of the value and values of the University. In Illinois he worked tirelessly to bring the University to the people of the State by creation of the *Illinois Connection* that included recruitment of hundreds of citizen volunteers that have been strong advocates for the University with both State and national legislatures, and with private groups.

Early in his tenure, responding to his driving goal for quality of the first order for the University he turned his attention to the creation and expansion of research parks at Chicago and Urbana to commercialize the technology and research products of the faculty. The creation of IllinoisVENTURES LLC to assist faculty with start-up firms for technology commercialization was an accomplishment that has not only helped many faculty but also aided the economic development of the State.

Never loosening his faculty ties, President Stukel has championed the concept of shared governance with faculty and earned the confidence of the faculty for his open and constant communication. Recognizing the need to recruit and retain the best faculty possible, he has struggled to improve compensation as well as teaching and

research facilities for faculty by stressing the importance of the University to the State to legislators and governors as well as to other supporters.

For his dedicated stewardship and his leadership of the University in a crucial decade of its history the Board of Trustees hereby expresses its gratitude together with respect and affection. President Stukel's service has been one of distinction and true quality.