

Board Meeting  
January 31, 2019

TRANSFER THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CANCER CENTER FROM THE  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, CHICAGO

**Action:** Transfer the University of Illinois Cancer Center from the College of  
Medicine

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President,  
University of Illinois with the advice of the Chicago Senate, the Interim Dean of the  
College of Medicine, and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs recommends the transfer of  
the University of Illinois Cancer Center from the College of Medicine to the Office of the  
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs.

Established in 1988 as the Specialized Cancer Center, the University of  
Illinois Cancer Center was approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education as a  
permanent center in 1997. The Center seeks to develop and deliver innovative solutions  
through scientific discovery to generate new knowledge and train the next generation of  
researchers to optimize outcomes and eliminate the burden of cancer in Illinois.

Innovative treatment options stemming from basic science researchers in collaboration  
with clinicians and population health researchers, particularly in cancer health disparities  
and health equity research, have been primary foci of the Center over the past four years.

The Center has received permission to submit an application for designation by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). NCI designation is an accreditation given to elite U.S. medical institutions that demonstrate they are leaders in addressing the nation's cancer burden through research. In addition, NCI-designated cancer centers receive research infrastructure funding ranging from \$1.4 million to \$6.0 million per year, plus institutional overhead costs. The transfer of the Center is intended to meet the NCI's expectations of the cancer center as an organization that serves the multidisciplinary science of the institution, with reasonable breadth and depth of cancer-focused scientific faculty and dedicated research facilities. The NCI states that one of the expected commitments of the parent institution is to establish "an organizational status for the Cancer Center that is comparable or superior to that of departments." The guidelines also suggest that the authority of the cancer center director should be, "...as comparable or superior to that of department chairs, with appointments to decision making committees relevant to the Cancer Center and formally codified authorities."

The External Advisory Board of the University of Illinois Cancer Center also recommends the Center be structured as a unit independent of any one college. As a result, and following a series of conversations, all parties have agreed to transfer the center to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs which provides oversight of the UI Hospital & Health Sciences System, including the seven UIC health science colleges. The transfer will bring cancer research activities into an organizational structure that ensures resources are allocated efficiently; strengthens the university's ability to compete for external grant funds; reduces duplication and competition between

departments, colleges, and research units; is inclusive of the University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics; and meets the guidelines for NCI designation.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respect 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 Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.