Approved by the Board of Trustees

May 16, 2024

**02**

Board Meeting

May 16, 2024

## APPOINT HEAD VARSITY COACH, MEN’S BASKETBALL, CHICAGO

**Action:** Appoint Head Varsity Coach, Men’s Basketball

**Funding:** Institutional (Non-State-Appropriated) Funds Operating Budget,

Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

The chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and vice president, University of Illinois System, recommends the approval of a multiyear employment contract which provides for the appointment of Robert Ehsan, previously associate head coach of men’s basketball at Stanford University, as the head coach of men’s basketball, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, University of Illinois Chicago, non-tenured, on a twelve-month service basis, on 100 percent time at an annual salary of $500,000, effective May 17, 2024. Mr. Ehsan was appointed as men’s basketball head coach designate under the same terms beginning March 21, 2024.

The term of the contract is five years, beginning on May 17, 2024, and ending on March 30, 2029, subject to early termination by either party without cause. In the event of early termination without cause, liquidated damages are payable by the terminating party, subject to a duty on the part of Mr. Ehsan to mitigate his damages in the case of termination by the university. No liquidated damages are payable to Mr. Ehsan in the event that his employment is terminated by the university for cause.

This appointment follows a national search. This recommendation is made with the advice of the director of Intercollegiate Athletics, supported by the executive search firm Parker Executive Search, and University personnel.

Mr. Ehsan will be eligible to receive incentive compensation for achieving specific academic and athletic goals as determined in advance by the chancellor and the director of athletics. Mr. Ehsan will be eligible for full standard benefits on the same terms as provided by the university to all academic professional employees, with contributions and benefit amounts based upon the base salary, where relevant. Additional compensation will be paid from revenue generated from external sources. Mr. Ehsan’s base salary will be funded by the institutional funds operating budget of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, which are non-state-appropriated funds.

Mr. Ehsan will succeed Luke Yaklich, whose employment ended on March 20, 2024.

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 concurs.

(A biographical sketch follows.)

ROBERT EHSAN

Education

University of California Davis, BA, 2005

Professional and Other Experience

University of Maryland, College Park, 2005-2005, graduate assistant; 2008-2011, assistant coach

Virginia Tech University, 2011-2012, assistant coach

University of Alabama Birmingham, 2012-2016, associate head coach; 2016-2020, Head Coach

Stanford University, Stanford, CA, 2021-2024, associate head coach