Approved by the Board of Trustees

May 19, 2022

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Board Meeting

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## RESOLUTION FOR MICHAEL AMIRIDIS

As you prepare to conclude your tenure as chancellor, the Board of Trustees wishes to honor you and express its deepest gratitude for your vision and leadership which have so strongly enriched the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) and the lives of its students, faculty, and staff.

From your first days at UIC in 2015 as chancellor, and as vice president of the University of Illinois System, you have guided the university to new heights. UIC’s reputation has grown both nationally and internationally, and it is now ranked among the top 30 most ethnically and economically diverse colleges in the country.

Your leadership of and vision for the university have led to six straight years of record enrollment growth, increased support for new tenure-track faculty positions, record-breaking growth in sponsored research funding, and renewed facilities planning and expansion. All this was accomplished while navigating a time of unprecedented challenge for higher education.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges that no institution could fully foresee, but few will emerge from this global crisis in as good a condition as UIC, thanks to your leadership. Leading by example, you expertly oversaw the shift to more online educational delivery while managing the university in a virtual environment, ensured timely and accessible testing to maintain safe social and educational interactions, communicated effectively with the campus and the larger community, and helped sustain university morale with your positive-yet-forthright outlook.

Throughout the pandemic, you have made certain UIC is a leader in maintaining public health and the safety of the Chicago community. So far, 5,700 COVID-19 patients have been treated by our outstanding doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals at UI Health. UIC also hosted one of the first mass vaccination centers, vaccinating nearly 180,000 people. This, too, is a reflection of your skilled navigation of the many challenges of the last two years. These challenges, however, never caused you to lose focus on student access and success at UIC.

As a first-generation student who came to the United States to further your own education, you have an intimate understanding of what is needed to advance UIC’s mission of access. The university has seen its largest-ever enrollment growth during your tenure, reaching 34,200 students. These efforts included a $5.3 million federal grant that affirmed UIC’s designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and supported UIC’s efforts to increase the number of Latinx and low-income students earning STEM degrees.

To support this growth, you launched IGNITE: the Campaign for UIC, the most ambitious fundraising effort in the university’s history. IGNITE exceeded its $750 million goal more than five months ahead of schedule, raising almost $774 million. Every gift to IGNITE directly supported UIC’s longstanding mission to provide the broadest access to the highest levels of educational excellence.

The largest campaign gift, and the largest gift in UIC history, was the $40 million contribution which created the Student Success Fund to provide life-changing support for first-generation and low-income students attending UIC while also providing for timely degree-completion initiatives, living-learning communities, opportunities for internships, and assistance for students experiencing food insecurity. These efforts are clear indications of your dedication and commitment to not only current students and faculty but to the university’s future.

Your commitment to the future of UIC is also reflected through the growth of new academic programs. This includes the addition of The John Marshall Law School to UIC, creating the first public law school in Chicago.

Your expert stewardship of institutional resources also supported the planning for and expansion of facilities that now total approximately $500 million in completed or ongoing projects. They include the new Computer Design Research and Learning Center, which will support undergraduate growth in computer science; and a significant expansion to the UIC Innovation Center, which brings together students, faculty, and corporate partners to seek practical solutions to problems.

Thanks to your forward-focused leadership, the UIC Flames will also soon join the Missouri Valley Conference, the nation's second-oldest NCAA Division I conference and a leader in college athletics.

The university’s relationship with and support of the Chicago community have continued to expand during your leadership of UIC. The growth and success of UI Health has led to a growing clinical enterprise and the needed expansion and modernization of our healthcare infrastructure. UIC will soon open two new comprehensive lifestyle and wellness neighborhood centers in two of Chicago’s most underserved communities, in Auburn-Gresham and North Lawndale. UI Health and Mile Square will provide needed primary care, dental care, and behavioral health services in both.

Your deep commitment to public health and wellbeing has made UI Health an exemplar not only in Chicago, but also in Rockford, Peoria, and the Quad Cities, too.

At this time the Board of Trustees, President Timothy L. Killeen, faculty members, students, and staff members extend to you our deepest gratitude for your dedicated service, and offer warm wishes to you and your wife, Dr. Ero Aggelopoulou-Amiridis, and to your family for your loyalty to the University of Illinois System. We deeply appreciate your dedicated service and inspired leadership at UIC.

The Board of Trustees directs that this resolution be incorporated in the minutes of today’s meeting to become a part of the official public record, and that a suitable copy be given to you as a permanent reminder of the esteem and affection in which you are held.