

Board Meeting  
November 13, 2014

APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR KATHERINE R. "KAPPY" LAING

To: Katherine R. "Kappy" Laing

The Board of Trustees hereby expresses its appreciation for the contributions of Katherine R. "Kappy" Laing as Executive Director for Governmental Relations on the occasion of her retirement from the University. Kappy began her duties on July 1, 2010, providing innovative leadership and oversight of governmental relations for the University of Illinois.

During Kappy's tenure, she has represented the University of Illinois to all levels of the State and the federal government. Her experience as a lobbyist in the Illinois General Assembly for the Chicago Public Schools gave her greatly needed insight into issues that affect the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Illinois.

She has advised University presidents and chancellors about plans and strategies to meet the University's objectives at the State and federal levels of government. She was of great help in navigating issues through the governmental channels, including negotiating for the operating budget of the University; securing research funding; and exploring new avenues for student aid assistance.

Kappy assisted the members of the Board of Trustees in her capacity as advisor and facilitated their understanding of both State and federal issues affecting

higher education and specifically the University of Illinois, and she helped them communicate the University's goals to elected officials at all levels.

Kappy's knowledge and assistance were greatly appreciated in December 2013 when the City of Chicago successfully submitted an application for a grant from the Department of Defense to develop a research center for digital-manufacturing technology through UI Labs, a nonprofit, University-affiliated research technology center.

Kappy's tenure at the University has been characterized by steadfast dedication and admirable diplomacy. Further, her thoughtful approach to issues at hand and thorough problem-solving skills were deeply appreciated by the Board of Trustees and many others at the University.

The President and other administrative officers, faculty members, students, and staff join with the Board of Trustees in this statement of gratitude for Kappy's service and extend best wishes.

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 you as a permanent reminder of the Board's respect and affection.