UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SEARCH COMMITTEE TO ASSIST IN THE SELECTION OF A PRESIDENT, 2026

MAY 21, 2026

This meeting of the Search Committee to Assist in the Selection of a President was held in the I Hotel and Conference Center, Illinois Ballroom, 1900 South First Street, Champaign, Illinois, beginning at 1:46 p.m.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Ramón Cepeda, co-chair of the search committee, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the assistant secretary to call the roll. The following committee members were present: Dr. Elizabeth Aquino, Dr. Robert A. Barish, Mr. Ramón Cepeda, Ms. Gabi DalSanto,[1] Ms. Sandra De Groote, Mr. William D. Forsyth,[1] Dr. Janet L. Gooch, Mr. Joseph Gutman, Ms. Tenea Harris, Mr. Devin Hunter, Dr. Joseph Irudayaraj, Dr. Stephen Maren, Dr. Mary Maryland, Dr. Suzet M. McKinney,[1] Dr. Kouros Mohammadian,[1] Mr. Mitch Olenick,[1] Mr. Donovan Pepper, Dr. Megan Styles, Mr. Cedric D. Thurman, Mr. Joshua H. Whitman, Dr. Ann Yeung. Ms. Ashley Huang and Dr. Matt Spindler were absent.

Mr. Cepeda welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Dr. Yeung as the co-chair of the committee. He then welcomed Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz, chair of the Board

[1] Ms. DalSanto, Mr. Forsyth, Dr. McKinney, Dr. Mohammadian, and Mr. Olenick participated via remote videoconference.

of Trustees, and invited him to provide some remarks to the committee. Mr. Ruiz expressed deep gratitude on behalf of the Board for the commitment being made by each member of the committee. He noted that service on this committee requires a significant commitment of time, and he said the Board would be seeking meaningful engagement from the members of the committee. Mr. Ruiz stated that selection of the president is among the Board's most important responsibilities, and he referred to the highest standards of integrity, inclusivity, and engagement. He said the process would be as transparent as possible, emphasizing that critical aspects of this search are necessarily confidential. Mr. Ruiz remarked on the importance of confidentiality and said that protecting the privacy of potential applicants and holding sacred the public's trust in this process from start to finish are critical to a successful search. He told members of the committee to direct inquiries from the press to the co-chairs and said that the integrity of the search must be protected. Mr. Ruiz reiterated that members of this committee must not discuss search committee matters outside committee meetings and again emphasized the importance of confidentiality.

Mr. Ruiz gave a brief overview of the important work of the committee, including assisting with the development of a candidate profile and deliberating to deliver a pool of candidates for consideration by the Board. He again thanked the members of the committee for their commitment of time, talent, and wisdom. Mr. Ruiz concluded his remarks and left the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

Mr. Cepeda and Dr. Yeung introduced themselves and asked those in attendance to do the same. In addition to the members of the committee, the following individuals introduced themselves: Ms. Jami M. Painter, senior associate vice president and chief human resources officer, University System; Mr. Scott E. Rice, University counsel; Dr. Roderick J. McDavis, managing principal and chief executive officer, AGB Search; Dr. Sally Mason, senior executive search consultant, AGB Search; Dr. Garry W. Owens, senior executive search consultant, AGB Search; Dr. Jeffrey A. Stein, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University; [2] and Ms. Marla J. Todd, assistant secretary of the Board and of the University.

Dr. Yeung stated that the Search Committee to Assist in the Selection of a President is responsible for recruiting and screening the best candidates. She said the search is led by the Board of Trustees, who selected her and Mr. Cepeda to serve as co-chairs of the committee. Dr. Yeung said she and Mr. Cepeda would keep trustees apprised of the committee's activities. She reminded the committee that members cannot discuss the proceedings of the committee outside meetings and emphasized the importance of confidentiality. Dr. Yeung stated that the Board selected AGB Search to assist with this search process.

Mr. Cepeda asked if there were any requests for public comment, and there were none.

[2] Dr. Stein attended via remote videoconference.

Dr. Stein commented on his role and the roles of Ms. Painter and Mr. Rice, stating that they would be working as a team to assist with logistics, scheduling, and meeting planning. He said they would work with the consultants from AGB Search. Dr. Stein said external communications would be handled by Ms. Adrienne Nazon, vice president for external relations and communications, University of Illinois System. He encouraged members of the committee to contact them with any questions that may arise.

Ms. Painter described her background and experience in human resources at the University and thanked members of the committee for their commitment and time. She stated she would work to support compliance with System office policies and practices, rules, and laws. Ms. Painter encouraged members of the committee to contact her with any human resource-related questions.

Mr. Rice shared information about the Office of University Counsel. He said his role is to serve as parliamentarian, along with Dr. Stein. He said he would also provide legal advice to the committee. Mr. Rice referred to the balance of transparency and confidentiality and referenced the University's governing documents.

Dr. Yeung stated that the charge to the committee was approved by the Board of Trustees at its April 29, 2026, meeting, and she said that while many members of the committee were recommended from their respective constituency of the University, they should not serve as a representative or delegate of those groups and should instead exercise individual judgment in serving the best interest of the University of Illinois. She said the first task would be to develop a profile of accomplishments and characteristics of ideal candidates. Mr. Cepeda referenced the key characteristics listed in the charge to the committee and said these lay the foundation on which the committee will build a profile of accomplishments and characteristics.

Mr. Cepeda introduced Dr. McDavis, Dr. Mason, and Dr. Owens from AGB Search. Dr. Mason gave an overview of the search process and said a timeline would be distributed. She stated that she would work with Dr. Stein to provide materials and create agendas for upcoming meetings, and she described the ways in which AGB Search would assist with the search process. Dr. Mason referred to recruitment efforts and highlighted opportunities to nominate potential candidates. She emphasized the importance of confidentiality and said the committee would be recommending a group of eight to 10 candidates that had been screened and interviewed by the committee for consideration by the Board. Dr. Mason noted that ultimately it is the responsibility of the Board to make the final decision and select the next president of the University of Illinois System.

Dr. Mason stated that town halls would take place on June 16, 2026, at the University of Illinois Chicago; June 17, 2026, at the University of Illinois Springfield; and June 18, 2026, at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She said the committee would review a draft prospectus that will be shared with the Board at its July 16, 2026, meeting. Dr. Mason informed the committee that work will intensify in July and August when the search is officially launched and applications are reviewed. She shared information about the application review process and encouraged committee members to ask questions. Dr. Mason stated that interviews would likely be held in September, and the majority of work for the committee would conclude in late September.

Dr. Maren asked for clarification about the process and Dr. Mason and Dr. McDavis discussed the committee's role and conclusion of the committee's work. Discussion followed regarding the town halls and additional opportunities for members of the public and University community to share feedback. Mr. Cepeda stated that the intent is to provide an opportunity for all voices to be heard. Dr. Stein clarified that search committee meetings would be held in person.

At 2:38 p.m., the committee took a break.

The meeting reconvened at 2:44 p.m., with all members of the committee previously recorded as being present in attendance.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cepeda stated, "A motion is now in order to hold an executive session to consider the following topics as permitted under Section 2(c) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act: University employee or appointment-related matters (subsection 1); and pending, probable, or imminent litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the University (subsection 11)." On motion of Dr. Irudayaraj, seconded by Ms. De Groote, this motion was approved. There were no "nay" votes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Material redacted pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2.06d)

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNED

The executive session adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEETING RESUMED

The meeting resumed at 3:48 p.m., with all committee members recorded as being present at the start of the meeting in attendance.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Cepeda requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Gutman, seconded by Mr. Thurman, the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m. There were no "nay" votes.

JEFFREY A. STEIN
Secretary

RAMÓN CEPEDA
Co-Chair

EILEEN B. CABLE
Special Assistant to the Secretary

ANN YEUNG
Co-Chair