Approved by the Board of Trustees

September 23, 2021

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Board Meeting

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## ESTABLISH THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS NO-INCOME, REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

**Action:** Establish the University of Illinois No-Income, Representative Office

in Mexico City, Mexico

**Funding:** Institutional Funds

The University of Illinois has a history of strong and impactful collaborations with Mexican universities and research institutes. The University of Illinois System also has an agreement with CONACYT (the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico), which funds up to 10 Ph.D. students from Mexico every year to study at any of the universities of the University of Illinois System for 4 years each. Mexico is home to many alumni of our three universities and there are significant opportunities for increasing such engagements in Mexico. The University of Illinois also wants to grow research collaborations and student exchanges with Mexican universities.

For these reasons, the University of Illinois recently established the Illinois Mexican and Mexican American Students (IMMAS) Initiative to build stronger collaborations with Mexican universities, companies, and the Mexican American community in Illinois; to support enrollment of Mexican and Mexican American students in Illinois; and to create a system of support for these students. The establishment of a No-Income, Representative Office (NIRO) or *Oficina de Representación Sin Ingresos* in Mexico City, Mexico, will enable the University of Illinois to pursue these objectives in Mexico by having people on the ground to identify and pursue new opportunities and to support ongoing engagements.

This NIRO will be located on the campus of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) or the National Autonomous University of Mexico. UNAM is the top public university in Mexico as well as one of the largest universities in Latin America.

Once established, the NIRO will have authority to represent the University in Mexico, promote collaborations between the University of Illinois and entities in Mexico, and act as a communication channel between the University and Mexican entities.

The President recommends that the Board approve the establishment of the University of Illinois No-Income, Representative Office in Mexico City, Mexico, and authorize the Comptroller to complete all necessary formalities to establish the said office, including without limitation the appointment of (a) an official representative, granting such representative any necessary powers of attorney and authority for her/him to pursue all activities necessary for the performance of her/his tasks in Mexico and as they may be required under Mexican law; (b) an accountant and/or a representative for any purposes of registration and reporting with Mexico's tax authorities as required under Mexican tax laws; and (c) a banker in Mexico to handle all expenses and operating accounts related to the day-to-day operation of the University’s No-Income Representative Office in Mexico City, Mexico.

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.