

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**OF THE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

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**June 6, 1979**



A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois was held in the Buckingham Room of the Continental Plaza Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, at 10:05 a.m. on Wednesday, June 6, 1979, pursuant to call by the president of the board. The secretary of the board gave notice of said meeting as prescribed by the By-Laws and by Illinois Statute.

President William D. Forsyth, Jr., called the meeting to order and asked the secretary to call the roll. The following members of the board were present: Dr. Edmund R. Donoghue, Mr. William D. Forsyth, Jr., Mr. Ralph C. Hahn, Mr. George W. Howard III, Mr. Earl Langdon Neal, Mrs. Nina T. Shepherd, Mr. Arthur R. Velasquez. The following members of the board were absent: Mr. Robert J. Lenz, Mr. Paul Stone, Governor James R. Thompson. The following nonvoting student trustees were present: Miss Venus D. Kooper, Chicago Circle campus; Mr. Paul A. Sobotka, Medical Center campus; Mr. Charles S. Watson, Urbana-Champaign campus.

Also present were President John E. Corbally; Dr. Peter E. Yankwich, vice president for academic affairs; Chancellor Joseph S. Begando, Medical Center campus; Chancellor William P. Gerberding, Urbana-Champaign campus; Chancellor Donald H. Riddle, Chicago Circle campus; Mr. James R. Collier, director of public affairs, Urbana-Champaign campus; and the officers of the board, Dr. Ronald W. Brady, comptroller (also vice president for administration for the University); Mr. James J. Costello, university counsel; and Dr. Earl W. Porter, secretary.

President Forsyth recognized and called attention to the fact that three special guests were in attendance: President Emeritus David D. Henry, Mr. Park Livingston, former trustee of the University, and John E. Cribbet, dean of the College of Law at Urbana and acting chancellor of the Urbana campus effective July 1, 1979.

President Forsyth then presented the following statement and recommendation:

### **PRESIDENCY OF THE UNIVERSITY**

The Board of Trustees has been convened to take the most important action it has been called upon to consider since President Corbally announced his intent to resign — the election of a president of the University of Illinois.

Our responsibility is a solemn one, resting upon the statutory obligation specified in the laws of the state of Illinois. The pertinent passage is as follows:

The board of trustees shall elect a regent who shall be charged with the general supervision of the educational facilities and interests of the university. Said regent shall be known as President of the University and his term of office shall be at the pleasure of the board of trustees.

The trustees have worked at this task with great care and with a keen sense of the responsibility before them. They have been ably assisted by an outstanding Consultative Committee, and in particular by its chairman, Martin Wagner, who has been kept informed of the board's progress at every point.

A special recognition should go to Trustee Howard who has acted as the board's liaison with the committee throughout. He has rendered a significant and statesmanlike service for which the board and the University are deeply grateful.

It is my understanding that the members of the board are now ready to announce their selection of a president and to take formal action to elect him. The choice is Dr. Stanley O. Ikenberry, presently senior vice president of Pennsylvania State University. I am immensely pleased to announce as well that all of the trustees are fully in agreement with this choice. The governor of the state of Illinois has been informed of the board's choice. He concurs in it and supports it.

Accordingly, I will now entertain a motion that Dr. Stanley O. Ikenberry be elected president of the University of Illinois effective September 1, 1979, at an annual salary of \$71,500.

On motion of Dr. Donoghue, Dr. Stanley O. Ikenberry was elected president of the University of Illinois effective September 1, 1979, at an annual salary of \$71,500.

The student advisory vote was: Aye, Miss Kooper, Mr. Sobotka, Mr. Watson; no, none.

The motion was approved by the following roll call vote: Aye, Dr. Donoghue, Mr. Forsyth, Mr. Hahn, Mr. Howard, Mr. Neal, Mrs. Shepherd, Mr. Velasquez; no, none; absent, Mr. Lenz, Mr. Stone, Governor Thompson.

### **INTRODUCTION OF DR. AND MRS. IKENBERRY**

At this point the board recessed briefly while Dr. and Mrs. Ikenberry were being escorted to the meeting room. On their arrival, President Forsyth introduced them to the board and to the assembly.

### APPRECIATION TO THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

President Forsyth then expressed on behalf of the Board of Trustees appreciation for the work of the Consultative Committee to Assist in the Selection of a President and called upon Trustee George W. Howard III, who had served in a special capacity as liaison between the board and the committee, to speak further on this point. Mr. Howard made the following comments:

This special meeting of the Board of Trustees has been made possible by many people. I would like to say that my colleagues on the Board of Trustees have each brought to this task a devotion and sense of priorities which has been intense and deep. It has been a privilege to work with you so closely over these months.

Earl Porter has been a special source of strength for the board in every way. We owe him a very special debt of thanks.

We owe thanks to many others, but we would like to reserve first place in our expressions of gratitude this morning for the Consultative Committee and its chairman, Martin Wagner. The committee members have worked countless hours under difficult but necessary conditions, requiring security, discretion, and diplomacy. They have given immeasurably of themselves and the results are their, and our, reward.

The rapport and cooperation between the board and the committee has been the best imaginable. Much of that result must be credited to a man of utmost integrity and ability. The chairman of this committee is due from our board and especially from me our deepest gratitude. Martin Wagner has become, over these past months, one of my closest friends. May I express for the Board of Trustees and for myself our utmost appreciation.

President Forsyth then asked for comments from Martin Wagner, chairman of the Consultative Committee who spoke as follows:

It should be noticeable from the smiles on our faces, the ring in our voices, and the warmth of our exchanges that we are pleased with the choice of Dr. Ikenberry to succeed Dr. Corbally as president of the University that means so much to all of us.

It is exciting and satisfying to be involved in the process of identifying and choosing a leader of "great promise" to follow the demonstrated leadership of President Corbally, and President Henry before him, and to manifest confidence in the choice.

Were I a cautious and prudent person, I would quit at this point. But the occasion compels me to say a few words about the process by which the appointment made today, by virtue of the board's authority, is undergirded by "consent," in the Jeffersonian sense, and provides support for Dr. Ikenberry to carry out his new tasks. Therefore a few brief remarks about some aspects of that "consensual process" may be in order. Since this is the president-elect's day, perhaps Dr. Ikenberry might be interested in the process by which his name was brought to the Board of Trustees.

The Consultative Committee began with more than 300 names that were passed on to us by university presidents, officers of foundations and organizations in higher education, by faculty and staff nomination, and by direct application. Biographical data for each were gathered by a staff research librarian. Thereafter each name was initially reviewed by one of seven subcommittees and their proposed action for further advancement was then voted upon by the full committee.

The names that remained and that were ultimately advanced to the board underwent two additional and increasingly more rigorous screenings and evaluations and a final, detailed, and confidential telephonic and personal "check out" by designated committee members. Then after a systematic review of all the infor-

mation, a secret ballot was taken to determine whether a name should be advanced to the board, and only those that received at least a three-quarter majority vote were advanced to the Board of Trustees. That procedural requirement, in itself, should provide him comfort and encouragement.

Now perhaps a word or two about the work of the committee would be in order. The committee was made up of twenty-two members selected from six different constituencies from each of the three campuses, the Alumni Association, and the Illinois Foundation. Given the composition and perspectives of the committee members, I believe it would not surprise you to learn that there were differences, and at times severe tensions, between the committee members. Obviously in that situation there was a high potential for difficulty and even possible failure. Yet, as intense as these differences were, the committee members restrained themselves and subordinated their views and feelings to the overriding task of helping the Board of Trustees find the best next leader of the University. That was a satisfying experience for all of us.

There also was a potential for trouble in the relationship between the Board of Trustees, who have the responsibility and the authority to appoint the new president, and the Consultative Committee, who were chosen to advise and consult with the board about that choice. The lines between these tasks are not always clear, and consequently there was a latent possibility for conflict about the scope of our respective tasks. Here again, I am pleased to report that our actions were never focused on authority and status but were constantly directed at how we might most effectively get on with our joint task. Moreover, at no time during the entire search process did the board, directly or indirectly, interfere with the committee's assignment or even faintly suggest a name to be considered. Their only repeated command to us was — identify the best possible persons for the position, get that task done as promptly as possible, but cut no corners in getting it done correctly. I commend the board for its actions and thank them on behalf of the committee and personally for the confidence and respect it accorded us.

Having commented about the relations between the board and the committee, I want also to express my appreciation for the support provided the committee by the secretary of the board, Earl Porter, and his staff. I believe even the board, who know much about Earl's supportive work, are probably unaware of the large number of supportive tasks he and the staff performed for the committee. On behalf of the committee I thank them for their help.

Finally, in the course of our work, the committee and its chairman had numerous meetings with President Corbally to discuss our task. In these interactions too, there was the potentiality for tension and difficulty — the possibility of a charge that the incumbent president might, subtly or boldly, try to influence the committee in the selection of his successor. Although the outcome will not surprise you, it is gratifying to report publicly that in these meetings the president always responded fully to our inquiries and offered to help us with our work but at no time was there even the faintest suggestion of a name to advance to the board.

I report all this to you, Dr. Ikenberry, so that you may have the sustaining comfort of this "process of consent" to support you in the "authority" the board has today exercised in naming you president-elect.

Now I hope you will indulge me in two brief further notes. Throughout this long period I worked regularly and continually with Bill Howard who served as the board's liaison with the committee. There were an almost unending number of telephone conversations and many personal visits in which we reviewed the progress that was being made in our task. In all of them he was unreservedly supportive and helpful. His advice was always constructive and directed at doing our job correctly and well. That relationship matured into a strong personal feeling of respect and friendship which is one very substantial by-product of this experience.

Finally, on a more personal note: when I was approached about a willingness

to have my name advanced to serve as chairman of the committee, I initially demurred. I was a little more than a year away from retirement and there were other tasks that had already been set. But I quickly recognized that to be asked to serve in that capacity was one of the highest respects a faculty could bestow on a colleague and that only a "clod" would decline that task. Since I was not prepared to accept that image of myself, I indicated I would accept the responsibility if my colleagues asked me to do so. Now, I can truthfully say that I am unendingly grateful for being called to the task. It has been the most informing and the most rewarding assignment that I have carried out in my stay in the University. I learned much, including some things about myself, that have been almost unbelievably revealing. I only wish I had learned them earlier. But I take comfort in the aphorism of Mr. Justice Frankfurter, "Wisdom too often never comes, and so one ought not to reject it merely because it comes late."

### REMARKS, DR. IKENBERRY

President Forsyth called upon Dr. Ikenberry to address the meeting. The president-elect spoke as follows:

President Forsyth, Members of the Board, President Corbally, President Henry, Professor Wagner, Colleagues, and Friends of the University of Illinois:

Election by the Board of Trustees as president of the University of Illinois is an honor, of course, but it is also a public trust. It is in harmony with this sense of public trust that I accept your designation as the fourteenth president of the University of Illinois. I will dedicate my efforts to the advancement of the University and to the peoples and causes it serves.

The quality of a university can be measured in terms of people and ideas. One looks to the character and reputation of the faculty of the University; to the quality of its students; to the achievements of its alumni; to the professionalism of its staff; and to the dedication of the members of its Board of Trustees. And beyond these qualities, one looks to the power of ideas — and the ideals for which it stands. By each of these measures, the University of Illinois stands as a truly great university. It is a source of strength for the people of Illinois, as well as for people all over the world.

Mrs. Ikenberry and I, and our family, look forward to coming to Illinois. It will be our new home and you, we hope, will become our new friends.

We come with expectations for continuity as well as change. We share your sense of pride, growing out of more than a century of excellence — a rightful pride in the accomplishments of the University of Illinois. Consistent with this pride, I asked if it might be possible for President Emeritus David Dodds Henry — (who incidentally, I am compelled to add, received all three of his earned degrees from Penn State) to join President Corbally and me today for this occasion. I will strive to continue this tradition of excellence symbolized by Dr. Corbally and Dr. Henry.

As we reflect on the past, however, we need also to keep our eye on the future. The decade of the 1980s will be one of change and challenge for this state and nation, as well as for the University. Not only must we be prepared to respond to new needs and new challenges, but we also must work to create new alternatives and new opportunities to improve the daily lives of people in the years ahead. If we are to do so, the University must be prepared to accept and lead toward change.

I am especially pleased that we have begun these discussions in Chicago, one of the world's major centers of economic, cultural, and intellectual strength. The University of Illinois must continue to be a major force for progress in this city. We have an irrevocable commitment to Chicago and we intend to strengthen our presence here in the years to come.

This same day, we will join with colleagues in Urbana-Champaign, the birthplace of the University. That campus is a tower of strength. It is served by

hundreds of eminent, distinguished scholars and is the home of many top-ranked departments and colleges of the University. Indeed, whether in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, Rockford, or Peoria, or in any one of the 102 counties in Illinois, the reality is that the University of Illinois belongs to all the people of this state. We intend to respond to our calling as scholars; and to do so in the land grant tradition to advance Illinois and its people.

Thank you again for this great honor; for this considerable challenge; and for this generous commitment of trust. I accept the responsibility of leadership and pledge to you my dedication to advance the interests of the University and those it serves.

### OTHER COMMENTS

President Corbally spoke briefly, giving special emphasis to the fact that a former president, an incumbent and a future president all were in attendance, expressing his own feeling of honor in the position. He repeated what he often had said, that the University of Illinois presidency was the greatest presidency of a public university in the United States. President Emeritus Henry expressed his appreciation at being in attendance, emphasizing the notable record of stability in the presidential office of the University over its 110 years of history. Both Drs. Corbally and Henry emphasized the potential for success reflected in Dr. Ikenberry's personal qualities and in his record of achievement.

On motion of Dr. Donoghue, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

EARL W. PORTER  
*Secretary*

WILLIAM D. FORSYTH, JR.  
*President*