

# SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

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**June 25, 1997**



A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois was held at the Drake Hotel, 140 East Walton Place, Chicago, Illinois, on Wednesday, June 25, 1997, beginning at 8:30 a.m., pursuant to call by the chair of the board. The secretary of the board gave notice of the meeting as prescribed by the bylaws and by Illinois Statute.

Chair Susan L. Gravenhorst called the meeting to order and asked the secretary to call the roll. The following members of the board were present: Mrs. Susan L. Gravenhorst, Mr. Thomas R. Lamont, Ms. Ada N. Lopez, Mrs. Martha R. O'Malley, Mr. Roger L. Plummer, Ms. Judith R. Reese. The following members of the board were absent: Mrs. Judith Ann Calder, Governor Jim Edgar, Mr. William D. Engelbrecht, Dr. Jeffrey Gindorf. The following nonvoting student trustees were absent: Mr. Neil Jon Malone, Springfield campus; Ms. Patty Vais, Chicago campus; and Mr. Todd Wallace, Urbana-Champaign campus.

Also present were President James J. Stukel; Dr. Sylvia Manning, vice president for academic affairs and chair of the committee to advise the board and the president on the selection of a university counsel; Ms. Susan J. Sindelar, special assistant to the president; Dr. Michele M. Thompson, secretary; and Ms. Marna K. Fuesting, special assistant to the secretary.

Mrs. Gravenhorst stated that the purpose of the meeting was to interview candidates for the position of university counsel and asked the board members present to take time to decide on questions to be asked and then to make certain that each of those was asked of each candidate.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Gravenhorst, referring to Section Two of the Open Meetings Act, stated: "A motion is now in order to hold an executive session to consider information regarding the appointment, employment, or dismissal of employees or officers, to discuss pending, probable, or imminent litigation, the acquisition of real property, and to discuss campus security."

The motion was made by Ms. Reese, seconded by Mrs. O'Malley, and approved by the following vote: Aye, Mrs. Gravenhorst, Mr. Lamont, Ms. Lopez, Mrs. O'Malley, Mr. Plummer, Ms. Reese; no, none; absent, Mrs. Calder, Governor Edgar, Mr. Engelbrecht, Dr. Gindorf.

(The student advisory vote was: Aye, none; no, none; absent, Mr. Malone, Ms. Vais, Mr. Wallace.)

The board members agreed to ask questions covering the following topics: what aspects of the position caused candidates to be interested in this position, a preferred management style, how would the candidates handle the double-reporting lines to the board and to the president, definition of individual skills and how these would be applied to this position, ways of managing demands of many clients, approach to legal advice versus policy advice — how the distinction would be specified and how both would be pursued, management experience, what process would the candidate use to identify emerging trends that might be of importance to the University, experience in dealing with health care legal issues, how would candidates handle external requests particularly from political sources, how would candidates wish to have effectiveness measured, what potential problems do candidates see in this position, and what would be one's priorities for the first 90 days.

### **Meeting with First Candidate**

President Stukel joined the board members at 9:00 a.m. and introduced the first candidate. The board members proceeded to pose questions to the candidate from the list above and then discussed these after the candidate finished responding. After the discussion, the trustees thanked the individual for coming to be interviewed. Following the interview, the candidate, President Stukel, and Ms. Sindelar left; the board members then discussed the candidate's responses and discussed comments.

### **Meeting with Second Candidate<sup>1</sup>**

President Stukel rejoined the board members and introduced another candidate. This individual discussed elements of the position, and stressed an

<sup>1</sup>This was Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows who was later recommended to the Board of Trustees for the position of university counsel and approved by the board on July 10, 1997.

interest in the issues that one in this position would have to handle. The board members presented the same questions to this candidate and conducted a discussion of some points in the responses after the candidate had finished responding to the queries. Again, after receiving thanks from the board for talking with them, the candidate, President Stukel, and Ms. Sindelar left the room as the trustees discussed the candidate's approach to answering the questions posed.

#### **BOARD MEETING RECESSED**

The board recessed for luncheon, to reconvene at 2:00 p.m. for another interview. When the board reconvened, the same individuals listed as being present earlier in the day were present.

#### **Meeting with Third Candidate**

Again, President Stukel joined the board members and introduced the third candidate. The board members asked this individual essentially the same questions as they asked the previous candidates. This candidate described being interested in the position because of an interest in education and in the institution. The candidate responded to each of the questions asked and engaged in discussion with the trustees about some of the topics. At the conclusion of the discussion, the trustees thanked the individual for coming to be interviewed; then the candidate, President Stukel, and Ms. Sindelar left the room and the trustees discussed the qualities of the candidate as they saw them.

#### **Meeting with Fourth Candidate**

President Stukel returned to the meeting and introduced the fourth candidate. This candidate was asked questions very similar to those asked the other three candidates. To the question on what was most interesting about the position, the candidate spoke of the impact that the position could have, given the myriad subjects that the individual in this position must handle. The candidate took each of the questions asked and responded to each. A discussion that provided for elaboration of some responses followed. At the conclusion of this discussion, the trustees expressed their appreciation to the candidate and the candidate, President Stukel, and Ms. Sindelar left the room. The trustees then discussed this individual's responses to their questions.

#### **Board Discussion with President Stukel**

After the trustees' discussion of the fourth candidate, President Stukel returned to meet with them for a general discussion of the attributes of all the candidates, and the perceptions the board members and the president had of each of the candidates. No decision was made at this time. Rather, the president asked the board members present to think about what they had heard and to call him at a later time with their individual impressions.

It was agreed by consensus that it would be desirable to present a board item at the time of the July 10, 1997, meeting of the board.

There being no further business, the board adjourned.

MICHELE M. THOMPSON  
*Secretary*

SUSAN L. GRAVENHORST  
*Chair*