

MEMO

Date: October 22, 2019

To: Governors State University Community

From: Lisa Harrell, Chairperson, GSU Board of Trustees



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Dear friends,

As you know, the Board will focus a considerable degree of its time and effort over the next several months on the search for a leader to succeed President Maimon. The selection of the president is the most critical and sacred responsibilities of this or any Board. It is our intention, throughout the course of the search, to provide you with occasional updates on this project.

Our first task was to choose a consultant to support our Board and the search committee's efforts. After a robust due diligence process, including feedback from University stakeholders, and public interviews with the most promising candidates at the September 12, 2019 Board meeting, the Board has unanimously chosen WittKieffer to support the search. WittKieffer is a national executive search firm with a long and distinguished track record in supporting presidential and chancellor searches both across the country and among our Illinois peers. The assignment will be led by Senior Partner Dennis M. Barden and his colleagues, Sheila Murphy and Jeff Compher. The WittKieffer team will be visiting the campus very soon to listen to the community regarding our needs and goals for our next president.

The next task is the empaneling of a search committee to provide support for and guidance to the Board's search efforts. The Board's executive committee met to consider the size and make-up of the committee and will in the next few days be inviting fifteen of our colleagues to join in our efforts. The committee will be chaired by Trustee Jim Kvedaras and will include another trustee, four members of the faculty, two Civil Service employees, and one of each of the following: a member of the student body; an academic dean; a vice president; an administrative professional other than a vice president; a representative of the Alumni Association Board; a representative of the Foundation Board; and a member of the community at large. These representatives will be chosen and recommended to the Board by the leadership of their associated governance organizations and/or in consultation with campus leadership.

While the timeline of the search is still being developed (and will be shared with the campus community upon its completion and its acceptance by the Board), the campus community should plan to be invited to meet with the WittKieffer team at some point in the next few weeks. The Board will approve the search committee's charge at our November 15 meeting, and the position

should be advertised and recruitment will begin in earnest shortly thereafter. The search committee should therefore be working with high-potential candidates as early as February, and the campus community is likely to entertain finalists for the position upon your return from Spring Break in March. Our goal is to complete the search by around April 1 in order to secure a president who will assume the position officially on or about July 1, 2020.

In the days to come, we will be setting up protocols and resources to keep the campus community informed of our progress and, in particular, to solicit nominations and referrals of potential candidates for the presidency. The Board is committed to an inclusive process that considers the diverse needs and perspectives of our GSU community. Thank you for your voice in aiding the Board in fulfilling this most critical and sacred responsibility of selecting our next University President.