

May 13, 2019
Presidential Search Advisory Committee Report

On May 13, the Presidential Search Advisory Committee held its first meeting on the SIUE campus.

Board Chair Phil Gilbert thanked the members for their willingness to serve in this vitally important role. Chair Gilbert noted that the Board's goal is move the entire SIU system forward. He reviewed with the committee key items of the Board's Vision Statement which was reviewed at the Board's March 28 Board meeting.

Chair Gilbert noted that the Board will be looking for a president who can pull the campuses together in a unified way and work with legislators for funding at state and federal levels. The best person for the job may not necessarily be someone who has been a president or chancellor but needs to be a leader who can get these things done.

The Chair discussed that the committee's role to screen the applications and provide the Board 10-12 names for the Board's consideration, and the Board will then conduct those interviews.

General Counsel Luke Crater reviewed with the committee the importance of confidentiality for the search and for those candidates applying for the position in order to help facilitate a strong pool of applicants. He reviewed a confidentiality statement and committee members signed those forms.

It was noted that Chair Gilbert or Search Committee Chair Hightower will speak for the search committee regarding all inquiries from the press and other requests. If members receive such media inquiries they should forward such requests to Executive Secretary Misty Whittington.

Search Committee Chair Hightower reviewed the Committee Charge with the search committee which was approved by the Board at its March 28 meeting.

Dr. Hightower reported that the Board's goal is to hire the new SIU System President by the end of 2019.

Dr. Hightower reviewed that the Witt/Kieffer Search Firm was hired to assist with the search. He reviewed a timeline provided by Witt/Kieffer and discussed stages of the search and services the firm would provide SIU. The firm would advertise the position, recruit applicants, collect the applications, and provide the committee with applicant materials for review.

Mr. Dennis Barden, consultant from Witt/Kieffer Search Firm, spoke to the committee. Mr. Barden reviewed elements of the timeline and details of the search process to the committee.

Dr. Hightower shared that the Board has established a Presidential Search website at siusystem.edu. The site lists the search committee members, and public meeting postings. The site will contain information about how potential nominators or applicants can contact the search firm to nominate candidates or to apply. It will list the advertisement to be distributed to various media outlets. It will also include the Presidential Search White Paper which is a document that describes SIU and the position of President. The White Paper will also be distributed to potential candidates by the search firm.

Dr. Hightower reported that the Board engaged the Applied Research Consultants (ARC) group from SIUC to perform a confidential survey regarding the presidential search. On April 25 the group launched by email the survey to employees and students of the three campus locations. The purpose of the survey is to allow for input from employees and students about the presidential search process and to gather feedback about desired qualifications and criteria for the next president of SIU. The ARC group will tabulate the data from the survey and provide its results to the Board by June 19. Those results can also be shared with the search firm and the search committee for consideration.

Executive Secretary of the Board Misty Whittington discussed with the Committee that she is the person designated to staff the search effort, and she serves as the contact for Chair Phil Gilbert and Search Committee Chair Ed Hightower. Members are to contact her with any questions regarding the search.

Dr. Hightower noted that Misty Whittington would be contacting the committee members to schedule its next meeting to be held in August.