Pursuant to notice, a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University convened at 12:01 p.m., Tuesday, August 12, 2014, at the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Touch of Nature Environmental Center, Little Grassy Lodge, Friends Room, Makanda, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by Chair Randal Thomas. The following members of the Board were physically present:

MG (Ret) Randal E. Thomas, Chair
Dr. Donna Manering, Vice Chair
Hon Don Lowery, Secretary
Mr. Mitch Morecraft
Dr. Shirley Portwood
Mr. Joel Sambursky

The following member of the Board was absent:

Dr. Roger Herrin

Ms. Marquita Wiley joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Also present for the duration of the meeting were Dr. Randy J. Dunn, President; Mr. Luke Crater, Interim General Counsel; and Ms. Misty Whittington, Executive Secretary of the Board.

The Executive Secretary reported and the Chair determined that a quorum was physically present.

The Chair stated that there would be a Public Questions and Comments portion available at the day’s meeting. The Executive Secretary informed the Board that one person had telephoned ahead to speak at the day’s meeting but he was not yet in
The Chair recommended that the Board continue with its retreat and allow the speaker to make his presentation upon his arrival.

A retreat was held for the Board members. President Dunn reviewed a White Paper: A Case for the SIU System. He discussed areas that could possibly operate more efficiently at the system level and reviewed some examples of other universities achieving such efficiencies across the country.

Mr. Carlton Smith, requesting to speak under the public comments portion of the meeting, made his presentation to the Board. He expressed concern regarding a meeting he attended with Illinois NAACP President George Mitchell and new University President Dunn regarding their opinion of various matters at the SIUC. Further, Mr. Smith expressed concern that Mr. Mitchell had not yet received information requested of President Dunn.

President Dunn noted that he had followed through with all items requested by Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Smith during their meeting, and his office had mailed the requested information to Mr. Mitchell the prior week.

President Dunn reviewed the University’s mission statement. He reviewed different approaches to goal setting and plans the University had followed in the past. The Board asked him to bring back to the Board his recommendations for a new mission statement and strategic themes for the September Board meeting.

President Dunn reviewed staffing needs of the President’s Office and potential opportunities that could be realized for regional outreach and government affairs at the federal level. The Board asked President Dunn to provide descriptions of staffing needs at its September Board meeting.
Trustees discussed various topics. A discussion followed regarding the possible options of capping fees and reducing the fee burden to undergraduate and graduate students. Discussion was held regarding opportunities to train and retrain the region’s workforce and the needs of nontraditional students.

The group discussed the information and data it receives with regard to the university’s workforce diversity and their desire to see additional detailed reporting.

At 5:35 p.m., Trustee Sambursky made a motion that the meeting adjourn to meet on August 13, 2014, at 8:00 a.m. in the same location. The motion was duly seconded by Trustee Portwood. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

On August 13, 2014, at 8:03 a.m., the Board resumed the retreat session.

The following members of the Board were physically present:

MG (Ret) Randal Thomas, Chair
Dr. Donna Manering, Vice Chair
Hon Don Lowery, Secretary
Mr. Mitch Morecraft
Dr. Shirley Portwood
Mr. Joel Sambursky
Ms. Marquita Wiley

The following member of the Board was absent:

Dr. Roger Herrin

Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education James Applegate made a presentation to the Board. He reviewed Illinois’ initiatives and goals to educate its citizens. He reported that universities are not graduating enough college-credentialed workers to keep up with state market demands. He discussed the need for universities to educate adult learners and that financial aid is geared more toward the
traditional student and should be reviewed to assist adult learners. Dr. Applegate reviewed data illustrating the connection between educational attainment and income.

Board members discussed ideas of recruiting students in the high schools. Other discussions were held regarding being able to admit students quickly if they met certain criteria.

At 11:12 a.m., Trustee Morecraft moved that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of considering pending, probable or imminent court proceedings against or on behalf of the Board; information regarding appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; and collective bargaining. The relevant sections of the Open Meetings Act Statute that allow for the closed session are 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (1), (2), (11). The motion was duly seconded by Trustee Manering. The motion carried by the following recorded vote: aye, Hon. Don Lowery, Dr. Donna Manering, Dr. Shirley Portwood, Mr. Joel Sambursky, Maj. Gen. Randal Thomas, Ms. Marquita Wiley; nay, none.

Chair Thomas moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was duly seconded by Vice Chair Manering. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

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Misty Whittington, Executive Secretary