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## New UI president starts to get accustomed to this place

By *Paul Wood*

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CHAMPAIGN – Hours before he officially becomes president of the University of Illinois, [Michael Hogan](#) had a little face time with students at the Illini Union Book Store.

Hogan and his wife, Virginia, were getting their photo IDs taken at the store on Wednesday.

"Do I have a UIN?" the president asked, referring to a university ID number.

The president got to cut in line, and he apologized for it.

"We're both freshmen," he told incoming student Joseph Choi, who will study bioengineering. Choi, who is from Long Island, N.Y., didn't know who the president was.

"He seems really nice, though," Choi said afterward.

A sample of students at the Illini Union, done by a reporter and three high school journalists, found only two students who did have a handle on who Hogan is.

"I think he's going to do a really good job. He's well-prepared," said St Clair Morris, a junior in African American Studies from Chicago.

"I don't know much about him, but he seems OK. I really liked (former President) Joe. I don't think he deserved losing his job for a clout list. I imagine every university has one, and I don't think he had much to do with it," said Brian Rosten, a senior in chemical engineering from Clinton.

Hogan, the former president of the University of Connecticut, moved into the president's home in Urbana on Monday afternoon, UI spokesman Tom Hardy said.

Hogan said the house on Florida Avenue is a little overwhelming.

"I'm not used to this," he said. "I'm from Iowa."

Hogan said he won't do anything at midnight to mark the beginning of his term.

He expected Thursday to be extremely busy, with a video-conference first thing with Chicago and Springfield, a press conference and then a drive to Chicago to meet staff there.

He will have to lead a search for a new chancellor and cope with a state reimbursement lag that has been as much as half a billion dollars. But interim President Stanley Ikenberry will be there to help.

As for the photo ID, the new president said he was pleased.

"I look tan," he said.

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