

Room and board increasing at U of Illinois

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CHICAGO - The cost of room and board at the [University of Illinois](#)' three campuses will increase next fall by anywhere from 4 to 8 percent.

University trustees voted near the end of a daylong meeting Thursday in Chicago to raise the price of housing and accompanying meal plans, saying the money is needed to offset the rising costs of campus operations.

Also Thursday, university board Chairman Lawrence Eppley stepped down after six terms. He was replaced by fellow trustee Niranjana Shah.

Students at the [University of Illinois-Chicago](#) will see the sharpest increases in housing costs -- 8 percent, pushing the cost of a dorm room shared by two people to \$9,120 starting this fall.

At the flagship Urbana-Champaign campus, home to more than half the university's roughly 70,000 students, a dorm room shared by two people will cost \$8,684, a 5.9 percent increase.

And at the University of Illinois-Springfield, a dorm room will cost from \$6,250 to \$6,450, an increase of .8 to 1.8 percent.

Earlier, Eppley told the board that someone else should have a shot at the job after his six one-year terms.

Shah is a 64-year-old chief executive of the Chicago-based engineering firm Globetrotters Engineering Corp. He has been a board member since 2003 and is the first Asian-American to chair the board.

Shah said a top priority will be to help the university navigate difficult economic times.

Eppley oversaw the hiring of a new president and new chancellors for the Chicago and Urbana-Champaign campuses. He also signed off on the end of the controversial Chief Illiniwek mascot at Urbana-Champaign.