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# UConn president Michael Hogan is pick to be next president at Illinois

By *Paul Wood*

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Michael Hogan, the next University of Illinois president, will make his first public appearance at the school's flagship campus Wednesday afternoon.

Hogan, 66, now president of the University of Connecticut, will take office July 1 as the 18th UI president. He succeeds B. Joseph White, who resigned <sup>[1]</sup>effective Dec. 31 following an admissions scandal. Stanley Ikenberry has served as interim president since then.

UI officials announced Hogan's appointment Tuesday evening but would not disclose his salary. However, UI spokesman Thomas Hardy said he will earn more than White and Ikenberry's \$450,000 annual salary.

Hogan earned \$577,000 in 2008-09 at UConn, then the 19th highest public university salary in the United States, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Chris Kennedy, chairman of the UI board of trustees, said Hogan was selected because of his unique combination of scholarship, university leadership experience and achievement. He's held nearly every management and executive position in academic life, Kennedy said.

"We wanted somebody to lead the campus who has extremely strong academic credentials," Kennedy said. "He is a tremendous scholar with at least nine books to his name."

Kennedy said Hogan's salary will be mid-range among Big Ten university presidents and lower than those at private schools such as Northwestern.

Ikenberry said he was "ecstatic" about the choice.

UI officials planned to introduce Hogan at a 10:30 a.m. news conference in Chicago and a 3 p.m. ceremony in Urbana.

Hogan has strong Midwestern ties. A native of Iowa, he held senior administrative positions at the University of Iowa and at Ohio State before becoming Connecticut's 14th

president in September 2007.

"I'm delighted to be returning to the Midwest to lead the University of Illinois, a top-tier institution and center of outstanding research and scholarship," Hogan said in the UI release. "I grew up in the Midwest, earned my degrees here and started my family here. I couldn't be more pleased to return to my roots as president of this world-class university."

Hardy said trustees had a chance to meet individually with Hogan and other candidates in early April at special closed sessions in Chicago. They reached a consensus and delegated the final negotiations with Hogan to top UI officials, Hardy said.

Trustees will formally vote on Hogan's appointment at their May 20 meeting in Urbana.

Hogan was the unanimous choice of a 19-member search committee, led by UI Trustee Pamela Strobel and UI Professor May Berenbaum.

"We had an outstanding field of candidates, but he rose to the top because of a combination of experience in the Big Ten, being a Midwesterner at heart, his recent experience with the (UConn) medical center and the legislature, as well as his expertise in fund-raising" and new construction, Strobel told The News-Gazette.

"The fact that he was enthusiastically supported by everyone on the committee is incredibly encouraging," Berenbaum said in the news release. "Everything we expect our president to accomplish, Michael Hogan has already successfully accomplished elsewhere. And the fact that he is a first-rank scholar was important to everyone, especially the faculty."

Hogan met Tuesday in Chicago with Gov. Pat Quinn.

"The track record of President Hogan reflects a person of demonstrated leadership who will work for the best interests of the university and the Land of Lincoln," Quinn said in the UI release.

Hogan is a specialist in post-World War II diplomatic history and the Cold War, and continued his teaching, research and writing even while serving in administrative roles, according to the release.

In addition to administrative posts at Iowa and Ohio State, he has held faculty positions at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio; Stony Brook University in New York; University of Texas at Austin; and Purdue.

White announced his resignation in September, after an investigation found that some university applicants who had connections to trustees, politicians and donors were admitted over more-qualified students.

The search committee was appointed in November, and conducted preliminary interviews with candidates in Chicago earlier this spring. In April that list was narrowed to 10 candidates, half of them university presidents and half provosts. Eight were from public

universities.

Strobel said the committee put an emphasis on a diverse field of candidates, which started at 208.

Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, was hired to help with the search.

The presidential search committee included three trustees, eight faculty members, three students from the UIs three campuses, one representative from the alumni association and one from the UI Foundation, one administrative officer, one academic professional and one civil service representative.

Professor Joyce Tolliver, chair of the Urbana campus faculty-student senate, said she was "thrilled" that Hogan has such a strong academic background.

"Faculty on my campus were adamant about the need to bring in somebody who defines himself or herself as an academic, and not somebody who sees the university as a corporation. So it looks promising," Tolliver said. "My colleagues in the history department tell me he is a very well-respected historian. He has been a very assiduous researcher.

"I'm thrilled that we're getting a Midwesterner, someone who not only understands Midwestern culture but academic culture. He's built his career at public universities, which is an excellent thing," added Tolliver, a fellow Iowan who also received her bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Iowa.

The Connecticut system has nearly 30,000 students.

Hogan also has "a very good record on diversity, which I think is absolutely crucial right now, when cuts to the university budget make it harder to provide access to the under-represented," Tolliver said.

Student body President David Olsen also lauded the hire and said he looks forward to sharing student concerns with Hogan.

"The students I've talked to are really excited to see a strong leader in place, especially at this time of budgetary crisis for the university. I'm looking forward to his ethical and responsible stewardship for one of the great institutions of public higher education," Olsen said.

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