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## Former UIS coach Gilmore hopes to coach again

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**THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER**

Posted Jan 16, 2011 @ 11:30 PM

Last update Jan 17, 2011 @ 06:25 AM

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A former University of Illinois Springfield women's softball coach who was forced to resign in 2009 after allegations of improper behavior involving student athletes says he would like to coach again.

"I would love to coach one day again," said Roy Gilmore, former assistant women's softball coach who was also the university's women's basketball coach. "Is it possible? Who knows? ... I am not actively pursuing a coaching position. But I would love to do it again."

Gilmore and head women's softball coach Joseph Fisher resigned after an incident in Florida involving players. According to a **heavily redacted letter** to university officials, the incident involved alleged sexual assault and battery, and **the university six months later paid \$200,000 to one of the players** to settle any claims.

The letter was written shortly after the team returned to Illinois. In releasing it to a reporter, the university redacted the letter to the extent that the name of the person who wrote it is blacked out.

University officials have refused to provide any details about what happened, although former Chancellor Richard Ringeisen wrote in a 2009 memo to university trustees that the incident involved alcohol and that Fisher had allowed drinking. It is not clear whether Gilmore or Fisher engaged in the behavior that prompted the \$200,000 settlement.

In an interview Friday, Gilmore declined to say what had happened in Florida.

"Honestly, I can't," Gilmore said. "The university has stuck by their guns, and I appreciate that. It's personal."

Gilmore said he has learned from the incident.

"I've always been a proponent — and I've told my teams this: If you do something wrong, there's consequences that come with those actions," Gilmore said. "That's what I have to live with. ... I've always been a firm believer that your character is not built on one action."

### Trustees back UIS

Two University of Illinois trustees asked last week about the Florida incident expressed no concerns about the way UIS officials have responded.

"I trust their judgment," said trustee James Montgomery Sr., a Chicago lawyer.

The university released on Jan. 6 a copy of **the \$200,000 settlement agreement** after giving it to the attorney general's office pursuant to a subpoena issued in late December. The attorney general issued the subpoena as part of an effort to obtain the records by The State Journal-Register, which sought assistance from the attorney general's public access office.

State law explicitly says that settlement agreements are public records, and the attorney general's staff said the newspaper's records request for all records pertaining to the incident covered the settlement agreement.

Montgomery said he did not have a concern about the university's failure to release the agreement until ordered to do so by the attorney general's office, although he acknowledged he did not have details about the records case.

"Bottom line is, I really don't know enough to comment on it," Montgomery said.

Ed McMillan, a downstate trustee who has a consulting firm that specializes in corporate mergers and acquisitions, said he was "barely aware" of the incident in Florida. The university's general counsel handles Freedom of Information Act issues, he said.

McMillan said he wouldn't second-guess university officials who did not release the settlement agreement until receiving a subpoena.

"I'm not a lawyer," McMillan said. "I don't think it's appropriate for me to get involved in discussions of that kind."

Another U of I trustee, former Springfield Mayor Karen Hasara, expressed similar sentiments when the letter was released.

Hasara said then she didn't know whether the university acted properly in keeping the agreement secret for more than a year.

"I'm honestly not qualified to comment on that," Hasara said. "I'm not in a position to second-guess what the university's lawyer

said.”

**Student privacy**

Derek Schnapp, UIS spokesman, has told The State Journal-Register that redactions in the letter titled “Sexual Assault and Battery” were made to preserve privacy and to comply with federal law aimed at preserving student privacy.

The newspaper has asked the attorney general to review the redactions in the belief that such information as the name of the person who wrote the letter should be public information. On Friday, the attorney general’s office asked university officials to justify the redactions.

Cara Smith, public access counselor for attorney general Lisa Madigan, said she did not know how long it will take to resolve the redaction matter. But she said her office is giving the case special attention.

“Given the length of time this entire matter has been pending, we are expediting our handling of this piece of this case,” Smith said.

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