

**Academic Freedom Statement from President Timothy Killeen  
May 26, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting**

*Statement presented by President Killeen as a part of his presentation of the strategic framework for the University of Illinois system, underscoring the central importance of academic freedom to that strategic framework:*

“I do want to stress our commitment collectively to academic freedom and to our world-class faculty. That, of course, is central to our University’s past, present and its future. And I feel it is important to reiterate the foundational importance of academic freedom as stated in our University Statutes, Article X, Section 2, “It is the policy of the University to maintain and encourage full freedom within the law of inquiry, discourse, teaching, research, and publication and to protect any member of the academic staff against influences, from within or without the University, which would restrict the member’s exercise of these freedoms...” These principles are consistent with the 1940 AAUP statement on academic freedom and tenure.

Also important to note: just over the last year – under the guidance of the Board – the process of appointing faculty has significantly improved and now follows a more appropriate timeline. As an added reminder, during the appointment process, should concerns arise about any specific appointment, the Board office will notify the relevant chancellor and request that the chancellor follow the campus shared governance process to evaluate the concerns and, after such consultation, to advise if the proposed appointment should proceed.”