



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Members of the SIU Carbondale Community:

As you know, we postponed on-campus interviews with chancellor finalists due to the “stay-at-home” order to stem the spread of COVID-19. At the time, I indicated that I would seek input on next steps from the search advisory committee, which represents campus and community constituencies.

The advisory committee explored the option of waiting out the pandemic, which could mean interviewing in late summer when most faculty and students are not available, or during the fall semester. This approach means that we might not be able to engage all parts of the campus community, extends uncertainty about the timeline for a new chancellor, and risks the loss of individuals in our strong candidate pool.

The committee also explored moving forward with fully virtual interviews, providing as much opportunity as possible for people to interact with or hear from the candidates. While we all agree this is not ideal and does not provide the same level of contact we hope for in a chancellor search, it moves the search forward and provides greater clarity around the timeline for installing a new chancellor.

Based on feedback from the search advisory committee and with agreement from all of the candidates, we will move forward with virtual interviews with the goal of appointing a new chancellor by July 1. We are finalizing interview details now and will share them with you shortly. I am very grateful for the hard work of the search committee and all of the thoughtful input I have received to reach this decision.

I would also like to say a big thank you to everyone in the SIU community. Altering the search process is just one more of the many adjustments we have made as a community due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In my short time as SIU system president, I have been impressed by your ability to adapt to rapid change, find new ways to work, and stay focused on our mission to serve our students and the region.

Your response in the face of such great uncertainty has been exceptional. On a regular basis, I have had the opportunity to share positive stories about the work of our faculty and staff with the Board of Trustees and many others, and I can assure you that I am not the only one impressed by all you have done over the past month.

Thank you for all you are doing to move us forward in challenging times. I am very proud to be a part of the SIU community.

Dan Mahony
President, SIU System

