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FACULTY SALARIES RISE, BUT STILL LAG BEHIND PEERS

SPRINGFIELD – Faculty salaries at Illinois public universities have outpaced inflation and other economic measures in recent years but have made little progress in becoming more competitive with peers across the nation.

The annual faculty salary study will be presented to the Illinois Board of Higher Education at its regular meeting on October 18 in the Illini Union at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Board members also will hear a presentation by Stanley O. Ikenberry, Regent Professor and President Emeritus of the University of Illinois.

According to the salary report, the average faculty salary at public universities in fiscal 2005 – weighted for all ranks of faculty – was $69,000, a 7.1 percent gain over 2003, and a 13.4 percent boost since 2001. That was higher than both the Consumer Price Index, which rose 9.5 percent since 2001, and the increase in Illinois per capital income, which went up 5.6 percent.

However, when measured against peer institutions in other states, salaries were only marginally more competitive in 2005 than four years earlier. In 2001, Illinois faculty salaries were 95.3 percent of median salaries paid at peer institutions; in 2005, Illinois salaries were at 95.7 percent of peer colleges and universities.

Faculty salaries at community colleges fared better in competition with community colleges in other states, but not so well compared to inflation. Salaries for community college faculty averaged $58,300 in fiscal 2005, a 3.4 percent increase over 2003, and an 8.2 percent increase over 2001, trailing the rise in the CPI but exceeding the jump in per capital income. Although community college salaries lost a little ground since 2001 when compared to other states, Illinois faculty salaries still exceeded the medians paid counterparts elsewhere by 7.6 percent in 2005.

The average salary paid at independent colleges and universities in 2005 was $83,000, nearly 7 percent above similar institutions elsewhere.
The Board will act on grant allocations in two programs. Eighteen colleges and universities will share $9.5 million under the Matching Grant Program, which provides seed money to leverage grants from the federal government and private corporations for research. In addition, Board members will vote on allocation of $966,000 for minority student transfer centers at community colleges under the Higher Education Cooperation Act.

The Board will review the Compendium of Institutional Effective Practices, a compilation of more than 200 programs and projects aimed at addressing statewide priorities embodied in *The Illinois Commitment*, the higher education strategic plan. The effective practices, which cover all sectors of Illinois higher education, are tailored to meeting policy goals in economic development, partnerships between K-12 schools and higher education, affordability, access and diversity, academic quality, and accountability.

Stanley Ikenberry served as President of the University of Illinois from 1979 to 1995, and as President of the American Council on Education from 1996 to 2001. He has written and lectured extensively on a variety of higher education issues, including college access, campus diversity, and equal opportunity. Since returning to the Urbana-Champaign campus, Ikenberry has headed the University’s P-16 Steering Committee to marshal resources at the U of I’s three campuses toward improving teacher quality, to forge partnerships between universities and community colleges in teacher preparation, to create incentives to attract bright students into the teaching profession, and to advance the use of technology in educating teachers and school leaders.

Ikenberry will speak to the Board on “Higher Education and America’s Future.”

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