Chicago State University Trustees Issue Statement Regarding Presidential Search Process

Chicago (April 9, 2008)—Last November, the board of trustees of Chicago State University cast a net from one side of the country to the other to find individuals who were best qualified to fulfill the critical role of the University’s president. From that day to today, the process has been completely transparent.

By design, every constituent group was represented on the search advisory committee: faculty, Student Government Association, alumni, administrators, civil service personnel, deans, the provost, and the community.

The search advisory committee had access to information about each of the 34 applicants in the pool. A majority of the applicants were educational administrators who met the criteria in the job description and leadership statement developed by our advisory group and the trustees’ search committee.

The search advisory committee was directly involved in the process until the candidate pool was reduced to 12 semi-finalists. All 12 of the semi-finalists’ backgrounds were reviewed by 11 of the members of the search advisory committee and their input was provided to the trustees’ search committee.

From there, the trustees’ search committee took every precaution to protect the confidentiality of the semi-finalists, all of whom could have jeopardized their current positions if their names were made public. The trustees’ search committee, equipped with feedback from all of the constituents, ultimately reduced the applicant pool to five. Next, the trustees’ search committee interviewed each of these five individuals; following these interviews, two individuals emerged as finalists.

Next week, all of the campus constituencies will have the opportunity to meet both finalists during their respective visits to the campus on April 13 and April 14. The full day’s schedule is attached. All meetings are open to the public.