

From: Y Searcy [mailto:ysearcy@csu.edu]

Sent: Mon 4/20/2009 9:17 AM

Subject: Request from CIUS members regarding CSU PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

Greetings fellow CIUS members!

(and I beg forgiveness from those who are included on the email list but no longer are involved in CIUS and received this notice in error)

As you may recall, last month, I contacted you regarding your respective presidential search processes in order to inform ours. Those of you in the Chicago area may be aware of the controversy surrounding the CSU Presidential Search. In fact, on this past Friday 4/17/09 our Presidential Advisory Committee handed in a collective resignation to the CSU Board of Trustees! All the more noteworthy is that the committee was headed by our Provost!

A link to a news report appears below.

http://www.chitowndailynews.org/Chicago_news/CSU_advisory_board_resigns_over_presidential_search_process,25442

More reports from other newspapers appear at the end of the email, but I am being brief here. To that end, I am querying whether your respective faculty senates (or faculty senate presidents) would provide letters of support for our efforts at CSU (to re-open the presidential search). We have received letters of support from at least one other state university's faculty union. The UPI Chapter Executive Board at EIU passed a resolution in support of the CSU faculty statement:

"We stand in solidarity with the faculty and staff of Chicago State University in their efforts to gain a transparent and collaborative Presidential Search process. We support their statement to the Board of Trustees that was presented on April 9th, 2009 (below*). It is our collective belief that flawed searches lead to flawed candidates, which in turn produce flawed leadership. The citizens of the great State of Illinois can no longer tolerate leadership that is anything less than excellent."

*Statement to Board of Trustees:

In the past few years, Chicago State University has suffered from a crisis of leadership. Particularly in these difficult fiscal times, we need strong and credible campus leadership in order to move forward and to continue to give our students the excellent education that they both need and deserve. For this reason, I would like to express grave concern on the part of the ~400 faculty and staff members of UPI Local 4100 at CSU about the presidential search process which is about to conclude. The Search Advisory Committee was, as a colleague says, "advisory in name only," being allowed minimal input at best. Many of our campus community members are convinced that the outcome of the search was predetermined. Such a process does not serve the faculty, the staff, or the students of Chicago State University. It damages the confidence and trust for any incoming administration and creates an atmosphere which may diminish the ability for all - faculty, staff, students and administrators - to work in concert for the betterment of the university.

An emergency CSU Faculty Senate meeting was called for tomorrow 4/21/09.

Your input is important.

I must inform you that at the suggestion of one of my colleagues on the CSU Faculty Senate, I submitted my candidacy for President of CSU to the search firm that was hired to conduct the national search. I was informed that my name was among the 12 finalists for the position that was submitted to the Presidential Advisory Committee. In the interest of full disclosure, I wanted you all to be aware of that. I do not want my efforts to be viewed as a "sour grapes" response to the proceedings. The activism around this issue is about the search process and not the candidates. To that end, the Vice-President of the CSU Faculty Senate - Devi Potluri, and Senator Phillip Beverly have directed nearly all of the Senate based activity related to the search process. The university community from students, staff, administrators, and faculty are profoundly disappointed by the behavior of the CSU Board of Trustees in this process. (Links to stories appear below.)

Thank you in advance for your reply.

In service,

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