

September 17, 2016

The Honorable Bruce Rauner  
Governor of the State of Illinois  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

Yesterday, Nikki Zollar, Anthony Young, James Joyce, Spencer Leak, Marshall Hatch, and Horace Smith of the Chicago State Board of Trustees terminated the services of President Thomas J. Calhoun after he had spent only 8 and one-half months on the job. As a condition of the “separation” agreement between the Board and the President, the departing President will receive \$600,000 in severance over the next two years. The Board members gave no reason for their termination decision.

These Board members took this feckless and fiscally irresponsible action despite overwhelming support for Dr. Calhoun from all parts of the University. They betrayed the students, staff, faculty, and alumni of Chicago State. They betrayed community members who support this University. They betrayed each and every constituent group desiring to see fundamental change in the way this University does business. Finally, against the backdrop of purported “financial exigency,” their profligate commitment of hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay for two presidents for the next two years betrayed the taxpayers of Illinois.

Given the appalling disregard for both the public good and the well-being of Chicago State University exhibited by these six Board members, the staff and faculty of this school declare that we have “no confidence” in them. We demand that they resign. If they will not, we ask that you immediately remove Nikki Zollar, Anthony Young, James Joyce, Spencer Leak, Marshall Hatch, and Horace Smith from the Chicago State University Board of Trustees before they are able to further damage our University.

Yours truly,

Philip Aka, Professor Political Science  
Justin Akujieze, Professor Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering Studies  
Sarah Austin, Assistant Professor Occupational Therapy  
Leslie Baker-Kimmons, Associate Professor Sociology  
Joseph Balogun, Distinguished Professor Health Studies  
Barbara Belisle, Licensure Counselor College of Education  
Timothy Bell, Professor Biological Sciences  
Phillip Beverly, Associate Professor Political Science  
Stephanie Bibb, Lecturer Management, Marketing, and Management Information Systems  
Robert Bionaz, Associate Professor History  
Judy Birgen, Associate Professor Sociology

Linnae Bryant, Assistant Professor Accounting and Finance  
Sarah Buck, Associate Professor Secondary Education, Professional Studies, and Recreation  
Cathryn Busch, Professor Graduate Programs in Education  
Araceli Canalini, Lecturer Foreign Language and Literatures  
Chongim Choi, Associate Professor Art and Design  
Shaila Chrisofferson, Associate Professor Art and Design  
Ernst Coupet, Associate Professor Accounting and Finance  
Philip Cronce, Associate Professor Philosophy  
Michael Davenport, Academic Support Professional Evaluations and Advisement  
Lillian K. Dawson, Associate Professor Art and Design; Department Chair, Art and Design, Communications, Media Arts, and Theater  
Agber Dimah, Professor Political Science  
Jannette Dryjanski, Academic Support Professional Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering Studies  
Kelly Norman Ellis, Associate Professor English; Department Chair, English, Foreign Language, and Literatures  
Mark Erhart, Professor Biological Sciences  
Miguel Fernandez, Professor Bilingual Education  
Laura Ferrario, Lecturer Art and Design  
Rosalind Fielder-Giscomb, Associate Professor Library Public Services  
Adam Fotos, Lecturer Art and Design  
Athanas Gahungu, Professor Graduate Programs in Education  
Eddy Gaytan, Associate Professor Foreign language and literatures  
Monique Jean-Bart Germain, Assistant Professor Nursing (retired)  
Tadesse Giorgis, Professor Psychology  
Janet Halpin, Professor Geography (retired)  
Kelly L. Harris, Associate Professor African American Studies  
Juarez Hawkins, Lecturer Art and Design  
Rong Lucy He, Associate Professor Biological Sciences  
William Howard, Professor English  
Leslie Jackson, Lecturer Occupational Therapy  
Karel Jacobs, Associate Professor Biological Sciences  
Ephraim Janssen, Associate Professor Philosophy  
Soo Kang, Professor Art History  
Michael Kelly, Lecturer Communications, Media Arts, and Theater  
Thomas Kenemore, Professor Social Work  
Kamesh Khan, Associate Professor Communications, Media Arts, and Theater  
Mark Kutame, Associate Professor Secondary Education, Professional Studies, and Recreation  
Ann Kuzdale, Associate Professor History  
Azungwe Kwembe, Assistant Professor Library Technical Services  
Olanipekun, Laosebikan, Lecturer Graduate Programs in Education  
Carol Leach, Associate Professor Political Science  
Letitia Leonard, Lecturer Communications, Media Arts, and Theater  
Barbara Leys, Assistant Professor, Early Childhood Education  
Martha Llamas, Office Administrator Early Childhood and Bilingual Education  
Thomas Lucas, Lecturer Art and Design  
Deborah Lynch, Associate Professor Graduate Programs in Education

Kristy Mardis, Professor Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering Studies  
Bryon Martin, Assistant Professor Secondary Education, Professional Studies, and Recreation  
Karen Jean Martinson, Lecturer Communications, Media Arts, and Theater  
Louis McFarland, Associate Professor Sociology  
Michael McNicholas, Lecturer, Secondary Education, Professional Studies, and Recreation  
Suzuko Morikawa, Associate Professor History  
Farid I. Muhammad, Lecturer Psychology  
Saidou N'Daou, Professor History  
Evelyne D. Norris, Associate Professor Foreign language and literatures  
Vincent Osaghae, Professor Accounting and Finance  
Elizabeth Osika, Associate Professor Information Studies  
Byeong Gyu Park, Lab Support Specialist Biological Sciences  
Eric L. Peters, Professor Biological Sciences (retired)  
J. Archibald Peters, Assistant Professor Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering Studies  
June N. Price-Shingles, Associate Professor Secondary Education, Professional Studies, and Recreation  
Romona Raymond, Academic Support Professional Evaluations  
Arthur Redman, Associate Professor Sociology  
Alesia Richardson, Associate Professor Psychology  
Robert Richter, Professor Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering Studies  
Calvin Robins, Police Officer Chicago State University Police  
Virginia Shen, Professor Foreign language and literatures  
Mark Smith, Professor Music  
Patricia Steinhaus, Professor Early Childhood Education  
Brandon Stokes, Research Data Specialist College of Health Sciences  
Mark Sudeith, Professor Music  
Michael Sukowski, Director Center for Teaching and Research Excellence  
Kevin Swier, Professor Biological Sciences  
Robert Szyman, Professor Secondary Education, Professional Studies, and Recreation  
Douglas Thomson, Professor Criminal Justice  
Gabrielle Toth, Associate Professor, Department Chair Library and Instruction Services  
Daphne Townsend, Academic Support Professional Course Scheduling  
Cynthia Valenciano, Professor Early Childhood and Bilingual Education  
Andrea Van Duzor, Associate Professor Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering Studies  
Laurie Walter, Associate Professor Biological Sciences  
Chyrese S. Wolf, Associate Professor Elementary Education and Graduate Reading  
Stephanie Zuba-Bates, Assistant Professor Occupational Therapy