MEMORANDUM

June 29, 2020

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Appointment of Dr. Stephen H. Kolison, Jr. as President of State University College at Fredonia

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves the appointment of Dr. Stephen H. Kolison, Jr. as President of the State University of New York College at Fredonia.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Resolved that the appointment of Dr. Stephen H. Kolison, Jr. as President of the State University of New York College at Fredonia, effective on or about August 17, 2020, be and hereby is, approved. Dr. Kolison will receive a salary of $275,000 for this service. Dr. Kolison will reside in the Fredonia’s House which is located immediately adjacent to campus and have use of a campus owned automobile or automobile allowance.

Background

Dr. Stephen H. Kolison, Jr. is Executive Vice President and Provost for the University of Indianapolis. In this capacity, he has a wide range of responsibilities including providing leadership for achieving the academic mission of the University. He joined the University of Indianapolis on April 1, 2017.

Prior to joining the University of Indianapolis, Kolison held a cabinet-level position as Associate Vice President for Academic Programs, Education Innovation, and Governance for the University of Wisconsin System from
October 2008 to March 2017. His responsibilities included developing and implementing policies related to academic degree planning and the productivity of the System’s academic degree array and the approval of requests from institutions within the System to plan new degree programs. In addition, he had oversight for the System’s Applied Research Grant Program aimed at advancing economic development in the state of Wisconsin; faculty and instructional development and; international engagement. In August 2011, Kolison served as Acting Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for the University of Wisconsin System.

Kolison began his professional career in 1990 when he joined Tuskegee University in Alabama as an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Forest Resources Program. While at Tuskegee University, he achieved the ranks of Associate Professor and full Professor. Under his leadership of the Forest Resources Program, Tuskegee University conferred its first Bachelor of Science in Forestry. From 1998 to 2008, Kolison served Tennessee State University as Research Director of the Cooperative Agricultural Program and founding Dean of the Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Research. Among his achievements at Tennessee State University were the establishment of the research faculty track and the center for agricultural biotechnology and biosecurity research and education.

Kolison’s international experiences include research and other professional activities carried out in Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Jamaica, the Netherlands, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom. He has an extensive track record of attracting grants and is the author of many scientific papers in the field of forestry and forest economics. He is a recipient of several awards recognizing his contributions to teaching, research, and public service. These recognitions include the “Certificate of Meritorious Service” for the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin; the “Faculty Advocate Award” from Tennessee State University, the “Faculty Achievement Award” from Tuskegee University (Tuskegee University’s highest academic award), and the first “B.D. Mayberry Young Scientist Award” from the Association of Research Directors, Inc.

Kolison obtained his Bachelor of Science in General Forestry from the University of Liberia, and earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Forest Economics from Iowa State University. He is a graduate of the American Academic Leadership Institute where his Professional Experiential Plan covered the Operation of University Foundations, and Strategic Enrollment Management. He holds four postdoctoral certificates from Harvard University: (1) Negotiations and Leadership – Harvard Law School; (2) Crisis Leadership in Higher Education – John F. Kennedy School of Government; (3) Educational Management – Graduate School of Education; and (4) Risk Communication Challenges – Center for Risk Analysis. He earned a certificate in Public Policy and Executive Leadership in Higher Education from Nova Southeastern
University and a certificate in Global Trade Analysis from the Institute of Agricultural Economics in The Hague, Netherlands.

A copy of Dr. Kolison’s curriculum vitae is attached.