University of Illinois Policy On Background Checks

I. Purpose

In an effort to provide a safe and secure environment for all students, employees and visitors at the University of Illinois, to safeguard the University's reputation, property and resources, and to promote sound hiring decisions, the University has established the following policy and guidelines for conducting background checks.

II. Overview

Commencing on October 5, 2015, offers of employment to prospective new hires, as well as offers to current employees who are seeking to transition into a position that requires a background check, will be made contingent upon the results of the criminal background check and other pre-employment assessments. The purpose of these background checks is to ascertain the suitability for employment.

The University may revoke any conditional offer of employment to an individual who refuses to consent to a background check and individuals whose criminal record or history creates an unacceptable level of risk to (1) maintaining a safe and secure University environment, or (2) the University's reputation, property or resources. If an individual's background check indicates a criminal record or history, the University may conduct an individual assessment of the criminal record or history, which may include asking the individual about his/her criminal record or history. A criminal record or history will not automatically exclude an individual from being considered for or being offered employment with the University, as consideration is given to such factors as, but not limited to, the nature and seriousness of the underlying offense/conduct, the relatedness of the offense/conduct to the position being sought, the length of time that has elapsed since the conviction/end of sentence/conduct, and demonstrated rehabilitative efforts.

III. Individuals Covered

Except as set forth below, these guidelines will be followed and a background check will be conducted with respect to new hires and employees transitioning into security sensitive or critical positions, regardless of whether the individual is seeking a position as a faculty member (tenure track, non-tenure track, specialized faculty, or other academic), staff member (academic professional, civil service, extra-help, retiree, or hourly), or medical resident. A background check also will be conducted with respect to all individuals (including University personnel, graduate and undergraduate employees, fellows, volunteers, and contractors) who are subject to the University of Illinois Protection of Minors Policy or who may be assigned to a security sensitive position, as defined by the University.

A background check generally will not be conducted with respect to graduate or undergraduate student employees, fellows, volunteers, individuals appointed to non-paid positions, contractors or other individuals employed by another entity who are not subject to the University of Illinois Protection of Minors Policy or who will not be assigned to a security sensitive position, as defined by the University.

The University reserves the right, however, to modify at any time the categories or groups of individuals who may be subject to a background check.

IV. Responsibilities

Candidates

- Provide complete and accurate information relating to any past criminal convictions, when requested
- Provide consent to a background check, when requested

University Human Resources

- Facilitate University compliance with this policy to ensure campus policies and procedures follow established provisions and protocols for background checks
- Oversee the administration of, and the development and implementation of the policies and procedures relating to, background checks for individuals to be employed by or otherwise associated with University Administration
- Communicate and provide necessary training regarding this policy with respect to individuals employed by or otherwise associated with University Administration
- Coordinate the process for soliciting and contracting, as necessary, with an outside vendor to perform background checks on specified individuals pursuant to this policy

Campus/Central Human Resources

- Develop, oversee, administer and manage the background check policy, guidelines and procedures relating to background checks for individuals to be employed by or otherwise associated with their respective campuses, colleges, departments and units
- Ensure the background check policies, guidelines and procedures developed by that office for its respective campus, colleges, departments and units comply and are consistent with this policy
- Communicate and provide necessary training regarding this policy for individuals employed by or otherwise associated with their respective campuses

V. Confidentiality

All records obtained through a background check will be maintained in accordance with the background check and record retention policies and procedures established by each campus and by University Administration. All such records must be deemed confidential, maintained in a secured, access-

restricted file and be limited in access to only those University representatives who have a need to review or utilize those records in fulfilling their responsibilities under these guidelines.