

AGENDA ITEM 7B.

APPOINTMENT OF INVESTMENT ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS

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**APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF
COLLEGE ILLINOIS!® PREPAID TUITION PROGRAM
INVESTMENT ADVISORY PANEL MEMBER**

Submitted for: Action

Summary: The Illinois Student Assistance Commission administers the College Illinois! Prepaid Tuition Program (the “Program”) pursuant to authority granted under the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Act, 110 ILCS 979/1 *et seq.* (the “Act”). The Act requires the Commission to appoint a seven (7) member Investment Advisory Panel. The Investment Advisory Panel’s duties include:

- (1) offering advice and counsel to the Commission regarding Program investments with the objective of obtaining the best possible return on investments consistent with actuarial soundness of the Program;
- (2) annually reviewing and advising the Commission on the Program’s Statement of Investment Policy; and
- (3) reviewing and advising the Commission with regard to the annual report that describes the current financial condition of the Program.

Of the Investment Panel’s seven members, one (1) is recommended by each of the following: State Treasurer, State Comptroller, Director of Governor’s Office of Management and Budget (GOMB), and Executive Director of the Board of Higher Education. The remaining three are recommended and appointed by the Commission. Each panel representative serves a three (3) year term. The Act requires each panel member to possess knowledge, skill and experience in at least one of the following areas of expertise: accounting, actuarial practice, risk management or investment management.

Mr. James A. Hibbert has agreed to continue serving on the Investment Advisory Panel and ISAC staff recommends his reappointment. He has served on the Panel since October 2015 and has provided valuable assistance during his tenure. Mr. Hibbert currently serves as a Commissioner on the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. A summary of his biography follows.

Mr. Hibbert has been with Wells Fargo for fifteen years and is currently a Relationship Manager and Vice President. Prior to joining Wells Fargo Mr. Hibbert was employed at The Northern Trust Company for ten years where he was Vice President, a Relationship Manager and a Manager in the

Investment Operations Department. Mr. Hibbert also worked in the Trust and Custody Department at Harris Bank in Investment Manager Relations.

After graduating from college Mr. Hibbert held a variety of positions as an account executive for firms at Chicago Board of Trade and on Wall Street in New York working for traders at Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers.

Mr. Hibbert is a former Commissioner of the Oak Park Planning Commission. He holds a Bachelors of Science from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois in 1980.

Upon the approval of Mr. Hibbert’s reappointments to serve on the Investment Advisory Panel, the makeup of the panel is described below:

NAME	RECOMMENDING ORGANIZATION	TERM EXPIRATION
Chasse Rehwinkel	State Comptroller	11/19/2021
Karen Kissel	Board of Higher Ed.	11/19/2022
Rodrigo Garcia	State Treasurer	11/19/2022
Jeanna Cullins	Commission	11/19/2023
Louis Paster	Commission	11/19/2023
Cameron Mock	GOMB	11/19/2023
James Hibbert	Commission	11/19/2024

Action requested: That the Commission approve the reappointment of Mr. James Hibbert (recommended by the Commission) to the College Illinois! Investment Advisory Panel, for a term expiring November 19, 2024.

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**APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF
COLLEGE ILLINOIS!® PREPAID TUITION PROGRAM
INVESTMENT ADVISORY PANEL MEMBER**

Submitted for: Action

Summary: The Illinois Student Assistance Commission administers the College Illinois! Prepaid Tuition Program (the “Program”) pursuant to authority granted under the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Act, 110 ILCS 979/1 *et seq.* (the “Act”). The Act requires the Commission to appoint a seven (7) member Investment Advisory Panel. The Investment Advisory Panel’s duties include:

- (1) offering advice and counsel to the Commission regarding Program investments with the objective of obtaining the best possible return on investments consistent with actuarial soundness of the Program;
- (2) annually reviewing and advising the Commission on the Program’s Statement of Investment Policy; and
- (3) reviewing and advising the Commission with regard to the annual report that describes the current financial condition of the Program.

Of the Investment Panel’s seven members, one (1) is recommended by each of the following: State Treasurer, State Comptroller, Director of Governor’s Office of Management and Budget (GOMB), and Executive Director of the Board of Higher Education. The Commission is responsible to appoint all seven Investment Advisory Panel members, four recommended as described above and the remaining three that are selected by the Commission. Each panel representative serves a three (3) year term. The Act requires each panel member to possess knowledge, skill and experience in at least one of the following areas of expertise: accounting, actuarial practice, risk management or investment management.

On June 25, 2021, we received an email from **Rodrigo Garcia**, a member of the College Illinois Investment Advisory Panel since September 2019, notifying us that he would be leaving the Illinois State Treasurer’s Office the week of June 28th, 2021, but that he would continue to serve on the panel for 2 or 3 months until his replacement could be appointed. Mr. Garcia’s term was set to expire on November 19, 2022. We are grateful to Mr. Garcia for the valuable assistance provided during his tenure and wishing him the best in future endeavors.

Consequently, ISAC staff reached out to the Illinois State Treasurer’s Office requesting a recommendation to replace Mr. Garcia. The State Treasurer recommended **Fernando Diaz** as a replacement for Mr. Garcia as a member of the College Illinois Investment Advisory Panel. The appointment of Mr. Diaz is expected to cover the remaining term of Mr. Garcia that runs through November 19, 2022 and we expect he would likely be reappointed after that term expires. ISAC staff also recommends his appointment. Mr. Diaz is Chair of the Treasurer’s Investment Policy Committee and the Chief Financial Products Officer for the Office of the State Treasurer. A summary of his biography follows.

Fernando Diaz serves as the Chief Financial Product Officer for Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs. Under this role, he leads the teams overseeing the Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program, the ABLE Program (Achieving a Better Life Experience), and the 529 College Savings Programs: Bright Start and Bright Directions.

Prior to joining the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer, Fernando spent over 10 years in higher education; specifically focusing on Enrollment Management and Student Affairs initiatives.

Born in Chicago, he grew up in the Little Village and East Side neighborhoods. He is a proud alumnus of the Chicago Public Schools system. He completed his bachelor’s in Political Science and master’s in Educational Leadership and Administration with a concentration in Higher Education Administration from Chicago State University. He also earned an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Fernando currently lives in the Bronzeville neighborhood in Chicago with his wife and two teenage children. When he is not helping people work on their financial independence, he is coaching a youth soccer club.

Upon the approval of Mr. Diaz’s appointment to serve on the Investment Advisory Panel, the makeup of the panel is described below:

NAME	RECOMMENDING ORGANIZATION	TERM EXPIRATION
Chasse Rehwinkel	State Comptroller	11/19/2021
Karen Kissel	Board of Higher Ed.	11/19/2022
Fernando Diaz	State Treasurer	11/19/2022
Jeanna Cullins	Commission	11/19/2023
Louis Paster	Commission	11/19/2023
Cameron Mock	GOMB	11/19/2023
James Hibbert	Commission	11/19/2024

Action requested: That the Commission approve the appointment of Mr. Fernando Diaz (recommended by the State Treasurer) to the College Illinois! Investment Advisory Panel for the remaining term expiring November 19, 2022.