



Illinois Ethics Matters

January 13, 2020

www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov

Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor

Office of Executive Inspector General

Susan M. Haling
Executive Inspector
General

Neil P. Olson
General Counsel

Fallon Opperman
Deputy Inspector
General & Chief of
Chicago Division

Erin K. Bonales
Director, Hiring &
Employment
Monitoring Division

Christine Benavente
Deputy Inspector
General-Executive
Projects

Claudia P. Ortega
Chief Administrative
Officer

Chicago Office:
69 W. Washington St.
Suite 3400
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 814-5600

Springfield Office:
607 E. Adams St.
14th Floor
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 558-5600

Hotline:
(866) 814-1113

TTY:
(888) 261-2734

Recent News

- The OEIG is pleased to announce the hiring of three new employees: **Kurt Banks** (Investigator-Springfield); **John Morales** (System Administrator-Chicago); and **Amanda Thomet** (Hiring & Employment Monitoring Division Analyst-Springfield).
- On December 20, 2019, Governor Pritzker signed [Public Act 101-0617](#). This legislation clarified certain amendments to the Ethics Act made during the 2019 spring legislative session. The OEIG was a proponent of this most recent clarifying legislation.
- In addition to the report discussed below, the Executive Ethics Commission also recently released an OEIG founded report concerning the misconduct of a child care provider funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services: [In re: Jorge Roman and Bright Beginnings Academy \(Case #15-02389\)](#).

Governors State University Improperly Pays Ex-Employees Over \$1.5 Million

A recently released OEIG report about Governors State University (GSU) details a course of mismanagement that resulted in payments totaling over \$1.5 million to 33 at-will employees after they had been terminated without cause.

The OEIG investigation uncovered that GSU had a long-standing practice of paying at-will employees after they were terminated. The amount of payment was based on the employees' start date and length of service without any regard to the individual circumstances surrounding the termination. These employees continued to be paid by GSU without completing any work for GSU (or only minimal work) even when they obtained other non-State employment. Furthermore, many of these employees were instructed to continue to submit timesheets after they left GSU, thus falsely indicating that they were working a full-time schedule for GSU.

GSU did not have any policies regarding how these types of terminations and payments should be handled or evaluated, or by whom. GSU also did not provide any clear direction to administrators about instructions to be given to terminated employees on future employment or the submission of timesheets. The OEIG concluded that, as the head of the university, GSU President Elaine Maimon provided little or no guidance on these issues, nor did she effectively delegate her management role to other individuals.

In response to the report, the GSU Board of Trustees stated that it was preparing new timekeeping and termination pay policies to address the issues raised in the OEIG report. The Board also stated that it was forming an executive search committee to begin the process of selecting the next GSU President by June 2020, due to the upcoming expiration of President Maimon's contract.

A copy of the report, [In re: Governors State University and Elaine P. Maimon \(Case #17-01703\)](#), is available on the OEIG website.