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Statement regarding external review of Illinois football

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — The number one priority of the campus administration and the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics is the well-being and health of our students.

Sunday afternoon, a former member of the football team made a string of accusations against the university. Division of Intercollegiate Athletics Director Mike Thomas informed Chancellor Phyllis Wise and requested that the campus commission a review.

The chancellor has requested the assistance of the Office of University Counsel in securing the services of an independent, external expert to conduct a swift and thorough inquiry. The external reviewer is Franczek Radelet of Chicago.

It is premature to establish a timeline for completion, as the inquiry process will likely include a review of documents, interviews and other fact-gathering efforts.

When the process concludes, the university will release information in a manner that balances student privacy concerns, legal responsibilities, the need to respect the integrity of the process and an obligation to be transparent.

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