**Illinois State**

**University**

**Board of**

**Trustees**

**Report No. 2016.10/4000.03**

**Oral English Proficiency Report**

**Executive Summary**

During the 1986 legislative session, the Illinois General Assembly amended the statute for each university governing board to require steps to ensure the oral English language proficiency of all persons providing classroom instruction (P.A. 84-1434). The statute required campus programs and practices to be implemented by the fall 1987 semester.

In June 1987, a framework titled “System Position Statement on Effective Oral Communication of Instructional Personnel” was established by the board then governing Illinois State University. The statement requires that policies and procedures regarding oral English language proficiency include four elements: 1) explicit provisions covering hiring practices and the periodic evaluation of faculty members, 2) screening procedures on oral English proficiency for the selection and assignment of teaching assistants to classroom instruction, 3) support services to be made available to assist institutional employees and graduate assistants seeking to improve the effectiveness of their oral English, and 4) procedures for receiving and responding to student complaints.

Illinois State subsequently adopted oral English language proficiency policies and procedures, which were last modified in 2011. Information about the policies and procedures is available on the University Registrar website at http://www.registrar.ilstu.edu/faculty\_staff/english/. The *Graduate Assistant Handbook* sets forth English language proficiency requirements for graduate teaching assistants.

During the 2015-2016 academic year, no written complaints were filed about the English speaking ability of instructors at Illinois State University.