

APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MAY 19 2010 OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

MARCH 9, 2010

Michelle M. Thompson

This meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Pine Lounge, Illini Union, 1401 West Green Street, Urbana, Illinois. Chair Hasara welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the clerk to call the roll. The following committee members were present: Dr. Frances G. Carroll, Ms. Karen Hasara, Dr. Timothy N. Koritz, Mr. Lawrence Oliver II, Mr. Carlos Tortolero, Mr. Bogdan V. Zavorotny, Mr. Matthew M. Reschke, and Mr. Derek R. Felix. Also present were President Stanley O. Ikenberry; Dr. Mrinalini Rao, vice president for academic affairs; Dr. R. Michael Tanner, provost, Chicago; Dr. John Martin, assistant professor of astronomy and physics, college of liberal arts and sciences, Springfield; Dr. Richard Wheeler, vice chancellor for academic affairs, Urbana; Dr. Philip Krein, professor, electrical and computer engineering, Urbana; Dr. Harry Berman, provost, Springfield; and Dr. Kara Federmeier, associate professor of psychology, Urbana.

Ms. Hasara stated that this meeting would focus on faculty and scholarly work, with contributions from the three vice chancellors for academic affairs, faculty members, and students. She emphasized that there would be time allotted for questions and discussion. She then reviewed the list of scheduled presentations, and asked Dr. Rao to begin her presentation concerning expectations for the University's faculty members (materials on file with the secretary).

Dr. Rao began by stating that faculty members are key to the quality of the academic enterprise, and reminded all that faculty members at the University of Illinois include Nobel Laureates, Guggenheim fellows, and Fullbright scholars, recipients of MacArthur Foundation awards, Pulitzer Prizes, National Book Awards, and Grammy awards. She indicated that the number of faculty members has increased since 1999, and reviewed the number of faculty members that are currently included in the tenure system. She also showed that the number of faculty from underrepresented groups has increased since 1999, and noted that there is greater diversity among faculty members at the University of Illinois than one finds at other peer universities that are members of the Committee on Interinstitutional Cooperation (CIC). She stated that there are plans at the University to emphasize interdisciplinary research, improve support for faculty members, and continue to work for more diversity in the faculty. Some committee members commented that there is a general need for greater diversity among faculty members at all campuses.

Next, Ms. Hasara asked Dr. Tanner to begin his presentation on faculty quality (materials on file with the secretary). He reviewed characteristics of universities that attract and retain faculty, which include: academic strengths in the department, college, and campus, infrastructure, quality of facilities, recruitment efforts, and retention. He discussed recruitment and retention activities and impediments to these, and emphasized the need to take proactive retention measures. Dr. Tanner also reviewed special efforts that are utilized in attempts to attract and retain underrepresented faculty. He stated that salaries at the University are low when compared to CIC peers and private research institutions, and commented on the need to improve faculty salaries. Dr. Tanner also listed the number of firm outside offers received by tenure

system faculty members in 2008, and he discussed the challenges and implications of making counter-offers, stressing that proactive intervention is essential.

Next, Professor Martin presented a faculty perspective (materials on file with the secretary). He described the balance of teaching, scholarship, and service, and provided personal examples of the activities and hours spent on each in a typical week. He emphasized the long hours, hard work, and dedication required of faculty members.

Dr. Wheeler then presented examples of programs designed to provide career development for faculty members (materials on file with the secretary). He reported that universities are beginning to realize that faculty members need help in planning and developing their careers, and he reviewed faculty development opportunities at the University of Illinois.

Following these reports, Ms. Hasara invited Professor Krein to report on the value of opportunities afforded faculty members at the Urbana campus in the University of Illinois Research Park (materials on file with the secretary). He described some of the projects that have been developed in the Research Park, focusing on his experiences with the company SolarBridge Technologies, which has offices in both Austin, Texas and Champaign, Illinois. He stated that the company started as an incubator firm at the University of Illinois, and is now part of the Research Park. Dr. Krein described some of the teaching and student activities that have been possible as a result of the Research Park and specifically those offered by SolarBridge Technologies.

Next, Dr. Berman described the purposes of sabbatical leaves for faculty members (materials on file with the secretary). He began by defining sabbaticals, and stating that such experiences should be regarded as periods for study for faculty members, providing an essential

and highly focused period of time for faculty development. He reviewed the process for a faculty member to request approval for a sabbatical leave, and emphasized that tenured faculty are eligible, usually after a period of six years. He described his own achievements while on a sabbatical leave, and reviewed the number of sabbatical proposals submitted for the 2010-2011 academic year. He said requests for 175 sabbaticals from 96 departments were received, which represents five percent of tenure system faculty members. He concluded with the comment that the Board's granting of sabbatical leaves is an investment in the University's most valuable resource.

Professor Federmeier was then asked to provide a report on the value of the sabbatical leave, as she had just completed such a study opportunity. She described the advanced research she conducted at the University of California San Diego, in which she investigated the brain's ability to process language using magnetoencephalography. She said that the results of this research will increase her chances of securing a renewal of a grant later this year, and said she was also able to use some of her time during her sabbatical to publish a literature review and encyclopedia article. Her sabbatical time had two direct impacts on student education: her article will be used in teaching, and she was able to take her graduate student to San Diego, which allowed the student to also receive direct training in the use of magnetoencephalography.

Members of the committee discussed the process for applying for a sabbatical leave, the fact that some faculty members never apply for such, and learned that not all faculty members who are approved for a sabbatical actually accept it.

Ms. Hasara then turned to the student trustees and asked for their observations concerning what constitutes faculty excellence.

Mr. Felix described his experiences in an online course taught by Professor Burks Oakley, and said this was an example of what an online course should be. He also emphasized the advantage of small class sizes at Springfield, stating that the largest class in which he is enrolled has 60 students. He added that his smallest class had an enrollment of five students.

Mr. Reschke commented next about his academic experiences at Urbana. He stated that it is clear to students that faculty members are required to balance teaching and research activities, and he described his experience as a student in an organic chemistry course taught by a renowned professor. He said this professor was able to achieve a balance in his teaching and research, and as a result, his experience as a student in the course was quite positive. He considered himself well-grounded in the subject matter of this course.

Mr. Zavorotny then described his experiences as a student at Chicago, and said he thought it was easier to connect with the course material when the professor is also a researcher. He also stressed the need for balance between research and teaching.

Ms. Hasara thanked the students for their remarks.

Next, Ms. Hasara asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the committee meeting held on December 17, 2009. On motion of Mr. Tortolero, seconded by Dr. Koritz, these minutes were approved.

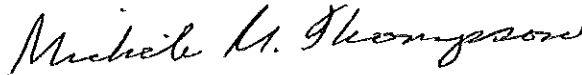
Ms. Hasara thanked all the presenters for their excellent presentations, and said she appreciated the opportunity for dialogue. She then asked the observers in the room to introduce themselves. All in attendance stated their name and role within the University.

Ms. Hasara then announced that the next committee meeting is scheduled for May 19, at 3:00 p.m. in Chicago.

Committee Meeting Adjourned

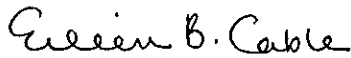
There being no further business, Ms. Hasara asked for a motion to adjourn. On motion of Mr. Tortolero, seconded by Dr. Koritz, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele M. Thompson

Clerk



Eileen B. Cable

Assisting



Karen Hasara

Chair