This meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee was held in the Pine Lounge, Illini Union, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1401 West Green Street, Urbana, Illinois on Thursday, September 8, 2011, beginning at 3:05 p.m. Trustee Karen Hasara, chair of the committee, convened the meeting and asked the clerk to call the roll. The following committee members were present: Mr. Ricardo Estrada, Ms. Karen Hasara, Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes, Dr. Timothy N. Koritz, and Mr. Lawrence Oliver. The following student trustees were present: Ms. Hannah Ehrenberg, Urbana campus; Mr. Kenneth Thomas, Chicago campus; and Mr. John W. Tienken, Springfield campus.

The following University officers were also in attendance: President Michael J. Hogan; Dr. Mrinalini C. Rao, vice president for academic affairs; Mr. Walter K. Knorr, vice president/chief financial officer and comptroller; Dr. Lawrence B. Schook, interim vice president for research; Ms. Katherine Laing, executive director of governmental relations; and Dr. Michele M. Thompson, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University. Ms. Rhonda R. Perry, associate University counsel, attended the meeting on behalf of Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows, University counsel. Attached is a listing of other staff members in attendance at this meeting.

Ms. Hasara asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the committee meeting that was held on July 20, 2011. On motion of Mr. Oliver, seconded by Mr. Estrada, the minutes were approved. There were no nay votes.
Ms. Hasara read a list of the items within the purview of the committee that were on the agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting the following day, and indicated that information regarding these items had been sent to committee members in advance of this meeting. She asked President Hogan to comment on some of these items.

President Hogan referred to Dr. Lawrence B. Schook’s achievements as interim vice president for research, and said that a recommendation to appoint him on a permanent basis as vice president for research is on the Board’s agenda for its meeting the following day. He also discussed the recommended appointment of Dr. Phyllis M. Wise as vice president, University of Illinois, and chancellor of the Urbana campus. He noted that Dr. Wise is an outstanding researcher, scholar, and administrator. He then provided information regarding the achievements and background of Dr. Christophe Pierre, who he said is being recommended for appointment as vice president for academic affairs, adding that Dr. Rao plans to assist Dr. Pierre with this transition. He also provided additional details about the recommended appointment of Dr. Bo Fernhall as dean of the College of Applied Health Sciences at Chicago, and he briefly discussed the appointment of Mr. Mike Thomas as the director of intercollegiate athletics. President Hogan commented on the high caliber of the candidates recommended for these positions and said that despite the challenges the University has endured in recent years, people want to be at the University of Illinois.

Ms. Hasara congratulated Dr. Schook on his recommended appointment and asked Dr. Rao to comment on recommended appointments to the faculty, administrative and professional staff, and intercollegiate athletic staff. Dr. Rao provided an overview of this item, and she
indicated this is a routine item that is on the agenda at most Board meetings. Ms. Hasara then asked Dr. Dimitri Azar, interim dean of the College of Medicine, Chicago, to discuss the item recommending a revision to the mission statement on graduate medical education for the College of Medicine and University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago. Dr. Azar stated that the mission statement is normally updated prior to accreditation of the college by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), and he said that the ACGME has now adopted a competency based approach to graduate medical education. He explained that the original mission statement was approved by the Board in January 2000 and updated in July 2004, and has now been revised to meet the current ACGME guidelines and to reflect the changing priorities in medical education. He said the recommendation from the executive committee of the College of Medicine was to update the statement to reflect that all standards for educational programs are grounded in the core competencies of the ACGME.

There were no objections to moving these items forward to the full Board.

PRESENTATIONS

Supporting Returning Veterans

Next, Ms. Hasara asked Dr. Rao and Dr. Tanya Gallagher, dean, College of Applied Health Sciences, Urbana, to provide a presentation regarding a program to support returning veterans (materials on file with the clerk). Dr. Rao provided an overview of the Illinois Veterans Service Act and listed the veterans’ student services coordinators at each campus. She stated that recent veterans have served in the Global War on Terrorism, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. She provided some background information on federal legislation pertaining to veterans’ education, anticipated growth of the veteran student population, and the
Illinois Higher Education Service Act of 2009, and she reported the number of veterans throughout the country and the State. She then reported the number of students who are veterans that are enrolled at each campus at the University, and she discussed their characteristics and needs, which she said can be unique compared to the greater student population. She provided a chart depicting sources of financial support for veterans' education, and explained that some veterans do not take advantage of scholarship opportunities. She stated that in other instances, sources of financial support have already been exhausted, and explained that some veterans use these funds to pay off previous student loans. She concluded her introduction to this topic with examples of other types of support that are provided at each campus.

Committee members briefly discussed the financial impact of providing financial assistance to veterans and unfunded State mandates pertaining to veterans' education, and Dr. Rao reported that she would provide more information on this topic at a later date. She then introduced Dean Gallagher to provide a presentation on a proposed center for wounded veterans at Urbana.

Dr. Gallagher reported on an effort that is underway on the Urbana campus to open a center dedicated to serving severely wounded veterans, a group which she said is often excluded from access to higher education. She provided a map depicting the geographical areas in which members of the military have served and continue to serve during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and reported that 250,000 veterans have been severely wounded. She referred to the Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 and 2010, and said that many severely wounded veterans with disabilities also qualify for various forms of assistance. She discussed the challenges that many severely wounded veterans face and the types of
accommodations that are often needed, and she referred to the role of the Urbana campus as a leader in providing accommodations to students with disabilities. She discussed the history of the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services at Urbana, described the many accommodations and services that are available for students with disabilities, and provided an example of a disabled student who was able to progress from requiring the constant care of parents and nursing staff to achieving independence and great success after enrolling at Urbana and taking advantage of the services and accommodations available there. She stated that the goal of this center would be to make these same types of services and opportunities available to wounded veterans.

Dr. Gallagher then discussed the experiences of returning veterans and described some of their unique needs. She stated that the center would provide educationally integrated residential and non-residential support services with a multidisciplinary, family-centered approach, which could accommodate up to 165 veterans per year. She described the types of services that would be provided and emphasized that this would be a place for veterans and by veterans. Ms. Hasara inquired about funding for the center, and Dr. Gallagher referred to great support among many agencies. She stated that the building would require private support, and said that fundraising is underway. President Hogan referred to Dean Gallagher's dedication and perseverance, and committee members discussed the possibility of State funding, concluding that this would not be likely. Ms. Hasara remarked on the importance of these services at Urbana and encouraged other trustees to visit Beckwith Hall, which is a residential facility at Urbana for students with disabilities. Dr. Gallagher commented that Beckwith Hall is the only facility of its type in the country, and stated that there are some students who would not have access to education without this type of facility and if they did not reside near a University campus with such facilities,
noting that this is the same situation faced by some veterans. Dr. Koritz commented that there are greater numbers of disabled veterans now than there were in the past due to improvements in medicine that have resulted in increased survival rates. With no additional questions or comments, Ms. Hasara thanked Dr. Rao and Dean Gallagher for the presentation.

University-Wide Climate Survey

Dr. Rao began the next presentation (materials on file with the clerk) with a definition of social climate, stating that it is the atmosphere of an organization as perceived by its members. She reviewed the reasons for conducting a climate survey and discussed outcomes from past climate surveys, and she provided an overview of the components of the development of this survey. She told the committee how the survey would be administered, reviewed the types of information that will be collected, and presented the objectives of the project. She stated that a website with information regarding the survey is now available, and she reviewed the types of information that can be found there. She stated that the goal is to achieve a response rate of at least 50 percent, and she discussed some plans for analysis and action items that will likely develop after the survey is completed, noting that the survey may be offered every two or three years.

President Hogan thanked Dr. Rao for her efforts and commented on the emphasis on diversity that is pervasive throughout the University. He discussed meetings at Urbana and Chicago with diversity constituents and concerns that were expressed at those meetings regarding climate and diversity initiatives, and said that there is room for improvement in this area. He briefly discussed programs to increase diversity among faculty and students and emphasized the need to retain the diverse faculty and students that are recruited. Dr. Rao
provided additional information about the survey and discussed methods for increasing interest and participation, including incentives such as parking for faculty and staff and early registration for students. She also announced an annual lecture on diversity that is scheduled for October 10, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. at the UIC Forum, which will feature as a keynote speaker Dr. Richard Tapia, a professor of mathematics at Rice University who has worked to eliminate the graduation gap among minority students. She said this will be followed by an invitation only diversity summit.

Committee members briefly discussed previous surveys on this topic, and Mr. Estrada asked if it would be possible to have presentations from minority constituent support groups at the next meeting, and all agreed this would be beneficial. Dr. Rao responded to questions, and she explained that methods are being used to ensure that each response to the survey is unique. Brief discussion regarding student participation followed, and Dr. Rao described methods for increasing participation, including the registration incentive she described earlier in the presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no business presented under this aegis.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Hasara announced that the next meeting of this committee is scheduled for December 1, 2011, at Springfield.
COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, and on motion of Ms. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Oliver with no nay votes, the meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele M. Thompson  
Clerk

Karen Hasara  
Chair

Eileen B. Cable  
Assistant Clerk
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
STAFF AND PUBLIC ATTENDANCE, MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

Dimitri Azar, interim dean of the College of Medicine, Chicago
Eileen Cable, special assistant to the secretary, Board of Trustees office
Donald Chambers, chair, University Senates Conference, Professor of Physiology and
Biophysics, Chicago
Jan Dennis, assistant director, office for University relations
Marnie Fuesting, assistant secretary, Board of Trustees
Tanya Gallagher, dean, College of Applied Health Sciences, Urbana
Timothy Gilles, portfolio coordinator, office of the vice president for academic affairs
Anna Gonzalez, associate vice chancellor for student affairs and director of the office of
inclusion and intercultural relations, Urbana
Barbara Henley, vice chancellor for student affairs, Chicago
Rory James, director of the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American cultural center, Urbana
Lon Kaufman, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Chicago
Phoebe E. Lenear, education programs manager, mechanical science and engineering, Urbana
Jo Menacher, associate director, planning and budgeting
Marilyn Marshall, director of academic programs and services
Leslie Morrow, director of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender resource center and
assistant dean of students, Urbana
Lynn Pardie, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Springfield
Sue Parker, staff, Board of Trustees office
Maureen Parks, executive director and associate vice president, university office for human
resources
Menah Pratt-Clarke, associate chancellor, Urbana
Renee Romano, vice chancellor of student affairs, Urbana
Eric Smith, assistant vice president for equal employment opportunity and human resources
Lisa Troyer, chief of staff to the president
Ross Wantland, assistant director of the office of inclusion and intercultural relations, Urbana
Matthew B. Wheeler, chair, senate executive committee, Urbana, and professor of animal sciences and bioengineering, Urbana

Richard Wheeler, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Urbana

Barbara Wilson, vice provost for academic affairs, Urbana