MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
MARCH 6, 2013

This meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee was held in Illini Rooms B and C, Illini Union, 1401 West Green Street, Urbana, Illinois, on Wednesday, March 6, 2013, beginning at 3:15 p.m. Ms. 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 and Ms. Karen Hasara. The following student trustees were present: Mr. David Pileski, Urbana campus; Mr. Kenneth M. Thomas, Chicago campus; and Mr. John W. Tienken, voting student trustee, Springfield campus. Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes was absent. President Robert A. Easter was present.

The following University officers were also in attendance: Dr. Phyllis M Wise, chancellor, Urbana, and vice president, University of Illinois; Dr. Susan J. Koch, chancellor, Springfield, and vice president, University of Illinois; Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows, University counsel; and Dr. Susan M. Kies, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University. Dr. Richard P. Wheeler, visiting associate vice president for academic affairs, attended the meeting on behalf of Dr. Christophe Pierre, vice president for academic affairs. Also in attendance were Mr. Thomas P. Hardy, executive director
for University relations, and Ms. Margaret M. O’Donoghue, interim special assistant to the president. Attached is a listing of other staff members in attendance at this meeting.

Ms. Hasara thanked everyone for attending the meeting and mentioned that this would be the last committee meeting attended by the student trustees before their graduation in May. She then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the committee meeting held January 23, 2013. On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Estrada, the minutes were approved. There were no “nay” votes.

**REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED BOARD ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 7, 2013, BOARD MEETING**

Ms. Hasara introduced the Board items within the purview of the committee that were on the agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting the following day and asked that certain individuals make comments. The recommended Board items discussed at the meeting are on file with the clerk.

**Appointments to the Faculty, Administrative/Professional Staff, and Intercollegiate Athletic Staff**

Secretary Kies explained that the appointments of faculty, administrative and professional staff, and intercollegiate athletic staff recommended in this item have been thoroughly reviewed at the appropriate levels within the college, department, or unit, and that this item appears regularly on the Board’s agenda.
Award Honorary Degree, Chicago

Dr. Lon S. Kaufman, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Chicago, reported on the recommendation to award an honorary degree to Ms. Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children’s Defense Fund. He briefly described her advocacy efforts, particularly in areas related to children’s health, and referred to the many awards she has received.

Rename the Bachelor of Music in Music History, College of Fine and Applied Arts, Urbana

Dr. Ilesanmi Adesida, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Urbana, provided information regarding the recommendation to rename the Bachelor of Music in music history in the College of Fine and Applied Arts at Urbana. He provided some background and discussed the rationale for this recommendation.

Establish the Grainger Center for Electric Machinery and Electromechanics, College of Engineering, Urbana

Dr. Adesida then commented on the recommendation to establish the Grainger Center for Electric Machinery and Electromechanics in the College of Engineering at Urbana. He discussed the history and the mission of the center, and he and President Easter discussed
a gift from Grainger that has helped support students studying engineering and has advanced the study of engineering at Urbana.

Establish the TIAA-CREF Center for Farmland Research, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Urbana

President Easter discussed the recommendation to establish the TIAA-CREF Center for Farmland Research in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Urbana. He provided some information regarding the funding and types of activities that will take place at the proposed center.

Establish the Center for a Sustainable Environment, Office of the Chancellor, Urbana

Chancellor/Vice President Wise reported on the recommendation to establish the Center for a Sustainable Environment at Urbana. She stated that the proposed center will bring together the strengths and interests of the campus and will be housed in the Natural Resources Building on campus.
PRESENTATIONS

Sabbatical Leaves of Absence, 2013-14

Ms. Hasara asked Dr. Wheeler to provide a presentation on sabbatical leaves of absence for Academic Year 2013-14 (materials on file with the clerk). Dr. Wheeler described sabbatical leave as a time of intense study and read the definition of sabbaticals as it appears in the University of Illinois Statutes. He provided an overview of the sabbatical application, review, and approval process, and discussed the length and configuration of sabbatical leave. He then presented the recommendation for sabbatical leaves of absence for Academic Year 2013-14, and said 219 sabbaticals are recommended this year, with 152 at Urbana, 55 at Chicago, and 12 at Springfield. Brief discussion followed, and Dr. Wheeler referred to an in-depth presentation on sabbatical leaves of absence that took place at the March 9, 2010, meeting of this committee.

Financial Literacy

At 3:35 p.m., Ms. Hasara asked Mr. Pileski to provide a presentation on student financial literacy (materials on file with the clerk). Mr. Pileski introduced Ms. Andrea N. Pellegrini, visiting assistant director, University student financial services and cashier operations. She and Mr. Pileski discussed the value of providing financial literacy education to University students and the accessibility of such education throughout the University. They provided an overview of the educational programs at Urbana, and Ms.
Pellegrini described the financial education resources available at each campus through the Student Money Management Center (SMMC), which is part of University Student Financial Services and Cashier Operations. She stated that due to limited resources, SMMC training focuses on specific groups of at-risk students. She presented the impact of financial literacy education on successful past-due payment plan agreements, and Mr. Pileski reported on opportunities for growth.

Committee members discussed the presentation, and Ms. Hasara inquired about federal and State regulations. Mr. Pileski referred to predatory lending regulations that apply to credit cards, and Ms. Pellegrini commented briefly on State financial literacy education requirements at the high school level. Mr. Pileski also commented on obstacles faced by international students unfamiliar with banking practices in the United States. Additional discussion followed regarding the recession and causes for past-due payment plan agreements. Mr. Thomas suggested that financial literacy education could be made available as an online course available across the three campuses, and Dr. Wheeler referred to a recently announced TIAA-CREF program that supports financial literacy education. With no further comments or questions, Ms. Hasara thanked Mr. Pileski and Ms. Pellegrini for the presentation.

Diversity at Illinois

At 4:00 p.m., Ms. Hasara asked Chancellor/Vice President Wise to provide a presentation on diversity at Urbana (materials on file with the clerk). Chancellor/Vice President Wise
stated that while progress has been made in supporting and increasing diversity at Urbana, additional work is needed. She presented the diversity values statement approved by the Urbana Senate in 2012, referred to the annual celebration of diversity that took place in November, and discussed key themes. Chancellor/Vice President Wise then provided data regarding race and gender for faculty and students at Urbana in 2002 and 2012. She described campus level hiring programs and faculty success programs and reported on academic achievement and support programs for students at the campus and college level. Next, Chancellor/Vice President Wise discussed the creation of a faculty advisory council on diversity and cultural understanding and referred to other organizational efforts aimed at increasing and supporting diversity. She described exercises that were part of the visioning future excellence initiative and stated that social equality and cultural understanding emerged as one of six themes. She stated that participants identified and prioritized suggestions and recommendations related to social equality and cultural understanding. Next, Chancellor/Vice President Wise discussed future goals, including the creation of a new cross-cultural center, and she presented a road map for moving forward with a focus on diversity. Lastly, she referred to the campus’ commemoration of the Emancipation Proclamation and the stated that the Presidential Award and Medallion was presented to civil rights leader Ms. Myrlie Evers, who delivered the keynote address at the event.
OLD BUSINESS

There was no business conducted under this aegis.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Estrada told the committee that he recently visited the Springfield campus at the request of Latino students enrolled there. He described his experience meeting with these students and said there is interest in attracting Latino students to the campus and in creating a sense of community there. He indicated there was also some interest in establishing a Latino cultural center on campus. Mr. Estrada thanked Chancellor/Vice President Koch and commended her for her work as chancellor at Springfield. Chancellor/Vice President Koch expressed appreciation for Mr. Estrada’s visit and stated that it was a meaningful and empowering experience for the students.

Ms. Hasara announced that the next meeting of this committee is scheduled for May 28, 2013, at 3:00 p.m., at Chicago.

COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Estrada with no “nay” votes, the meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Kies  
Clerk

Eileen B. Cable  
Assistant Clerk

Karen Hasara  
Chair