This meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee was held in the Michèle M. Thompson Rooms B and C, Student Center West, 828 South Wolcott Avenue, Chicago campus, Chicago, Illinois, on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, beginning at 3:04 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: Ms. Karen Hasara and Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes. Mr. Ricardo Estrada was absent. The following student trustees were present: Ms. Hannah Cave, Springfield campus; Mr. Lucas N. Frye, Urbana campus; and Ms. Danielle M. Leibowitz, voting student trustee, Chicago campus. 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. Christophe Pierre, vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Lawrence B. Schook, vice president for research; Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows, University counsel; and Dr. Susan M. Kies, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University.

Ms. Hasara asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes from the committee meeting held May 13, 2014, and there were none. On motion
of Ms. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Leibowitz, the minutes were approved with no “nay” votes.

REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED BOARD ITEMS
FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014

Ms. Hasara introduced the Board items within the purview of the committee 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

Dr. 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. She stated that President Easter has asked Dr. Pierre to work with the campuses to review processes and establish best practices regarding hiring, particularly as it relates to hiring tenure and tenure-track faculty.

Appoint Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Springfield

Dr. Lynn Pardie, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Springfield, commented on the agenda item recommending the appointment of Dr. Clarice Renee Ford as interim vice
chancellor for student affairs at Springfield. Dr. Pardie described Dr. Ford’s background and current position at the Springfield campus.

Award Honorary Degree, Chicago

Dr. Eric A. Gislason, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Chicago, provided information on the recommendation to award an honorary degree from the Chicago campus to Ms. Maria Hinojosa, executive director of Latino USA and anchor of the talk-show *Maria Hinojosa: One-on-One*. Dr. Gislason discussed Ms. Hinojosa’s background and said that her exemplary work aligns with the mission of the Chicago campus.

Establish the Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Urbana

Dr. Ilesanmi Adesida, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Urbana, reported on the recommendation to establish a master of engineering degree in mechanical engineering at Urbana. He provided information on this industry-oriented degree and described its advantages, and he also commented on anticipated enrollment.

Rename the Institute for Genomic Biology, Urbana

Dr. Adesida then provided information on the recommendation to rename the Institute for Genomic Biology at Urbana as the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology. Dr. Adesida discussed the rationale for this and provided information on the Institute and the work of Dr. Woese.
Direct President to Explore Medical Education and Research for the Twenty-First Century

President Easter commented on the agenda item directing the president to explore medical education and research for the 21st century and referred to proposals to establish an engineering-focused College of Medicine at Urbana and an alternative proposal with recommendations for the existing College of Medicine at Chicago. He provided some information about each and said this agenda item directs the president to examine the impacts of these and to identify the best path forward for serving the people of Illinois, students, and the University. Brief discussion followed regarding the timeline for completing this exploration, and President Easter indicated this should be complete in March and said that much work related to this has been done already.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Context for Fiscal Year 2016 Tuition

At 3:15 p.m., Ms. Hasara asked Dr. Pierre to give a presentation on context for Fiscal Year 2016 tuition (materials on file with the clerk). Dr. Pierre reviewed key considerations in setting tuition and presented a graph depicting the State appropriation versus tuition and fees from Fiscal Year 2006 through Fiscal Year 2015, noting the decrease in State support. He then showed net tuition revenue by student residency and level at each campus from Fiscal Year 2008 through Fiscal Year 2014. Next, Dr. Pierre reviewed Fiscal Year 2015 guaranteed base tuition, fees, and room and board, and he told the committee that tuition differentials for
some programs can be as high as $5,000. He emphasized the lack of affordability and need to increase financial aid. Dr. Pierre showed a chart depicting undergraduate tuition and fees versus Pell and Monetary Award Program funding and said it is insufficient, noting that this gap can be as high as $10,000 of unmet need. Dr. Pierre then presented undergraduate financial aid from Fiscal Year 2006 through Fiscal Year 2015 and showed a net cost to student analysis for full time undergraduate students at each campus in Fall 2013. Next, he compared the tuition and fees at the University to a selection of peer institutions and others in the Big Ten and showed that some peer institutions have significantly lower tuition and fees. He told the committee that some peer institutions have also frozen tuition rates. Dr. Pierre then presented the number of applications, admitted students, and first-time freshman enrollments for each campus and reported that while quality increases each year, yield has continued to decline. He discussed the impact of a potential tuition increase on revenue and summarized additional factors that may impact this decision.

Discussion followed regarding the four-year guaranteed tuition rate in Illinois, and Dr. Pierre commented on the impact this has in determining tuition rates. Committee members discussed the guaranteed tuition rate, and Ms. Hasara and Ms. Holmes expressed concern regarding increasing tuition costs. Mr. Frye referred to his experience on the tuition policy advisory committee on the Urbana campus and said he gained a greater understanding of the financial picture at the University.

Open Access Report

Dr. Pierre then introduced Mr. John Wilkin, University librarian and dean of libraries at Urbana, to provide a report on open access. Mr. Wilkin stated that the task force on open
access was created in response to the Open Access to Research Articles Act, and that the Board approved the creation and composition of the task force at its November 2013 meeting. He said the task force has met several times, and he discussed some of the considerations and recommendations that were discussed. Mr. Wilkin also reported on the process, and he told the committee that the creation of a policy on open access has been delegated to the University Senates Conference. He referred to some questions regarding limitations and a minority report, and he thanked the Board for this opportunity.

Academic Unit Review: Provosts’ Analysis

At 3:49 p.m., Ms. Hasara asked Dr. Pierre to provide a presentation on the academic unit review process (materials on file with the clerk). Dr. Pierre described progress made to date and provided an overview of the purpose and process of reviewing academic units. He discussed information provided through the dashboards and used a department at Urbana to demonstrate the types of information made available. He stated that caution should be used when viewing the data made available thorough dashboards, as they do not provide a complete picture of an academic unit. Dr. Pierre then asked Dr. Adesida, Dr. Gislason, and Dr. Pardie to provide their analysis. Each provost used the dashboards to provide a brief analysis of a few selected departments on their respective campuses, and they provided additional information on each campus’s academic review process.

Dr. Pierre reminded the committee that the dashboards do not provide a complete picture of academic units and additional components should also be considered when analyzing an academic unit. He referred to variations among departments and said
that a more thorough and comprehensive review process should be used to address questions raised by this data, noting that it is helpful for reviewing a variety of key indicators. Dr. Pierre presented a regularized schedule for academic unit reviews in Academic Year 2014-2015, and Ms. Hasara thanked Dr. Pierre, Dr. Adesida, Dr. Gislason, and Dr. Pardie for the presentation.

Diversity at UIC

At 4:43 p.m., Ms. Hasara asked Dr. Gislason to provide a presentation on diversity at Chicago (materials on file with the clerk). Dr. Gislason highlighted awards and designations related to diversity that have been received by the Chicago campus, and he referred to the newly appointed vice president for diversity and senior advisor to the chancellor at Chicago, Dr. Tyrone A. Forman. He then presented the mission of the Office of Diversity. Next, Dr. Gislason discussed racial and ethnic diversity among faculty at Chicago and compared the percent of tenure-system faculty from underrepresented groups at Chicago to its peers. He discussed efforts to increase diversity among faculty and highlighted some cluster faculty hires. Dr. Gislason then discussed student diversity at Chicago and presented an overview of the demographics of students attending there. He showed the six-year graduation rate by race and ethnicity and discussed the success of the President’s Award Program. Dr. Gislason also reviewed the UIC Student Success Plan and presented upcoming assessments and initiatives to increase diversity at Chicago.
OLD BUSINESS

There was no business conducted under this aegis.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Basara announced that the next meeting of this committee is scheduled for January 14, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., at the Chicago campus.

COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, and on motion of Ms. Cave, seconded by Ms. Leibowitz with no “nay” votes, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

SUSAN M. KIES
Clerk

EILEEN B. CABLE
Assistant Clerk

KAREN HASARA
Chair