

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

This meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee was held in Illini Rooms B and C, Illini Union, 1401 West Green Street, Chicago, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, beginning at 2:45 p.m.

Trustee Jill B. Smart, chair of the committee, convened the meeting and asked the secretary to call the roll. The following committee members were present: Mr. Kareem Dale; Ms. Naomi D. Jakobsson; Mr. Edward L. McMillan; Ms. Jill B. Smart; Mr. Trayshawn M. W. Mitchell, voting student trustee, Urbana; Ms. Susan E. Panek, student trustee, Chicago. Ms. Rosie Dawoud, student trustee, Springfield, was absent. Mr. Donald J. Edwards, trustee, attended the meeting as a guest.

Also present were President Timothy L. Killeen; Dr. Barbara J. Wilson, executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Robert J. Jones, chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and vice president, University of Illinois; Dr. Michael D. Amiridis, chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and vice president, University of Illinois; Dr. Susan J. Koch, chancellor, University of Illinois at Springfield, and vice president, University of Illinois; Dr. Avijit Ghosh, comptroller (and vice president/chief financial officer); Dr. Edward Seidel, vice president for economic development and innovation; Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows,

University counsel; Ms. Dedra M. Williams, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University; and Mr. Thomas P. Hardy, executive director for University relations.

President Killeen introduced Dr. Nicholas C. Burbules, Gutgsell Professor of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership, Urbana. Attached is a listing of other staff members and some members of the media in attendance at this meeting.

Ms. Smart welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes from the committee meeting held July 24, 2019, and there were none. On motion of Ms. Jakobsson, seconded by Mr. McMillan, 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 SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

Ms. Smart introduced the recommended items within the purview of this committee on the Board’s agenda at its meeting on September 19, 2019, and asked certain individuals to comment on them. The recommended Board items discussed at the meeting are on file with the secretary.

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

Ms. Smart asked Ms. Williams to comment on the item recommending appointments to the faculty, administrative/professional staff, and intercollegiate athletic staff. Ms. Williams explained that the appointments of faculty, administrative and professional staff, and intercollegiate athletic staff recommended in this item have been thoroughly

vetted and reviewed at the appropriate levels within the college, department, or unit, and she encouraged committee members to contact her with any questions.

Rename the Department of African American Studies,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago;
and Rename the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences,
Major in African American Studies,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

Next, Ms. Smart asked Dr. Susan Poser, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Chicago, to report on the recommendations to rename the Department of African American Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago, and to rename the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, major in African American Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago. Dr. Poser said that questions raised at the last meeting of this committee about these two items were addressed in a memo sent to Dr. Wilson that was circulated among members of the Board. She reiterated that the proposed name change for the department and the major reflects a shift to a more global and transcultural field of study. Dr. Poser gave a brief history of the department and referred to revisions to the curriculum that now include diaspora studies as well as a broader inclusion of black studies outside the United States. She said all governing bodies unanimously support this proposed renaming, and she told the committee that while not required, this change was also discussed with students.

Mr. Dale indicated he had additional questions, and Dr. Jane Rhodes, professor and head of the Department of African American Studies, came to the podium. Mr. Dale inquired about the department and major names used at other institutions to

identify this field, including African American and African Studies, and asked Dr. Rhodes to comment on the decision to change the name to Black Studies. Dr. Rhodes said that department names used at other institutions primarily reflect the focus of the curriculum and expertise of the faculty in those units. She stated that Black Studies encompasses both African American and African Studies and was chosen after extensive discussion at two faculty retreats. Mr. McMillan asked Dr. Wilson if department names are consistent throughout the University system, and Dr. Wilson responded that department names vary across the three universities. She said it would be difficult to achieve uniform naming due to variations in faculty expertise, departmental structures, and disciplinary foci across our universities. Ms. Smart thanked Dr. Rhodes for attending and responding to questions from the committee.

There were no objections to the agenda items listed above going forward to the full Board for voting.

PRESENTATION

Academic Unit Review

Next, Ms. Smart asked Dr. Wilson and the three provosts and vice chancellors for academic affairs, Dr. Andreas C. Cangellaris, Urbana, Dr. Poser, Chicago, and Dr. Dennis Papini, Springfield, to give a presentation on the academic unit review process (materials on file with the secretary). Dr. Wilson discussed the benefits of the academic review process and said that intensive self and peer reviews take place at all levels. She

gave examples of State mandated reviews that are reported to the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and she asked Dr. Poser to report on program reviews at Chicago.

Dr. Poser described the purpose and criteria of program reviews and outlined the steps of the review process for degree programs and centers. She said that all programs are reviewed on an eight-year cycle. Dr. Poser showed the programs that completed their reviews in 2018-2019, programs that started their reviews in 2018-2019, and those that are scheduled to be reviewed in 2019-2020. She discussed the outcomes of the reviews, which included the elimination of some programs and centers, and she gave examples of reviews that led to consolidations. Dr. Poser described positive outcomes of reviews and highlighted the increase in administrative efficiencies as well as enhancements in the university's areas of excellence and impact.

Next, Dr. Papini reported on academic program reviews at Springfield and described their purpose. He showed the key elements of a program review and gave an overview of the eight-year cycle, noting that the use of other models for academic review are under consideration. Dr. Papini showed the review schedule for 2018-2020 and listed program eliminations from 2017 through the present. He emphasized the increase in administrative efficiencies across the university, which he said achieved cost savings and other benefits. Ms. Smart noted the length of the seven- to eight-year review cycle. Dr. Wilson explained that each department and its programs are assessed on an annual basis when budget and faculty hiring decisions are made by the college and provost office; the eight-year review described today, however, provides an opportunity for a more thorough and deeper evaluation.

Lastly, Dr. Cangellaris discussed academic assessment at Urbana and referred to the university's history of excellence and impact, highlighting its graduation rate and freshman retention rate. He described the academic review process and showed reviews that were completed in 2018-2019 and those that are in progress for 2019-2020. Dr. Cangellaris showed excerpts from external reviews and said that recommendations from reviews led to curriculum updates and improvements. He listed programs and courses that have been eliminated and those that have been added, and he told the committee that courses, as well as programs, are regularly reviewed. Dr. Cangellaris described efforts to increase resource efficiencies and provide transformative learning experiences through curricular innovation, many of which will position the university to lead workforce development for the fourth industrial revolution.

Mr. McMillan remarked on the vigor of the review process at each university and asked if employability or opportunities for graduate education are part of the evaluation. Ms. Smart described her experience on the College of Business advisory committee, which she said does consider student success, and Dr. Wilson indicated that all departments consider outcomes in their academic reviews. She said student success and graduation outcomes are also criteria for the external reviews. Dr. Wilson commented on the participation of many companies in the universities' career fairs, which she said also provide an opportunity for feedback on student success and preparation for the workplace. President Killeen told the committee that student debt, employment, and salary are all considered when evaluating student success, and he said there is a growing demand for talent in the workplace. Ms. Smart added that companies

are looking for employees that are agile learners. Ms. Jakobsson asked about the reporting of the six-year graduation rate, rather the four- or five-year graduation rate, and Dr. Cangellaris reported on progress in this area. Dr. Amiridis also responded and said that the six-year rate is the industry standard. Mr. Mitchell asked about the student record system's expected graduation date for each student, and Dr. Wilson said she would investigate and report back. Mr. Edwards briefly commented on the importance of including an analysis of cost and outcomes in these evaluations so as to focus resources on areas of success.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no business presented under this aegis.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Smart asked if there was any new business, and there was none. She announced that the next meeting of this committee is scheduled for November 13, 2019, at 2:45 p.m., in Chicago.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, and on motion of Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Panek with no “nay” votes, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DEDRA M. WILLIAMS
Secretary

JILL B. SMART
Chair

EILEEN B. CABLE
Special Assistant to the Secretary