

MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE, PERSONNEL, AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

JANUARY 15, 2020

This meeting of the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois was held in the Michèle M. Thompson Rooms B and C, UIC Student Center West, 828 South Wolcott Street, Chicago, Illinois, on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Trustee Ricardo Estrada, chair of the committee, convened the meeting and asked the secretary to call the roll. The following members of the committee were present: Mr. Kareem Dale; Mr. Ricardo Estrada; Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes; Mr. Edward L. McMillan; Ms. Jill B. Smart; and Ms. Susan E. Panek, student trustee, Chicago. Ms. Rosie Dawoud, student trustee, Springfield, was absent. Mr. Donald J. Edwards, chair of the Board of Trustees, attended the meeting. Mr. Ramón Cepeda and Dr. Stuart C. King attended the meeting as guests.

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 Chicago, 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; Mr. Thomas P. Hardy, executive director for University relations; Ms. Dedra M. Williams, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University; and Mr. Gregory J. Knott, secretary-designate of the Board of Trustees and of the University. Attached is a listing of other staff members and some members of the media in attendance at this meeting.

Mr. Estrada welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the minutes from the meeting that was held on November 14, 2019, and there were none. Mr. Estrada requested a motion to approve the minutes, and on motion of Ms. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Smart, the minutes were approved. There were no “nay” votes.

**REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED BOARD ITEMS  
FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ON JANUARY 16, 2020**

Mr. Estrada introduced the recommended items within the purview of this committee on the Board’s agenda at its meeting on January 16, 2020. He noted that one item on the committee’s agenda would usually be discussed at the meeting of the Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee, which was unable to meet as scheduled. He stated that Mr. Cepeda, chair of the Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee; and Mr. Edwards, chair of the Board and member of the Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities

Committee, were in attendance and can be of assistance should questions arise. All recommended items discussed at the meeting are on file with the secretary.

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

Mr. Estrada asked Ms. Williams to comment on the recommended appointments to the faculty, administrative/professional staff, and intercollegiate athletic staff. Ms. Williams explained that the appointments recommended in this item are thoroughly reviewed at the appropriate levels within the college, department, and unit, and she asked that members of the committee contact her with any questions.

**Appoint Director, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Springfield**

Mr. Estrada then asked Dr. Koch to report on the recommendation to appoint Mr. Peyton Deterding as director of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at Springfield. Dr. Koch stated that Mr. Deterding previously served as senior associate athletic director of internal operations at Illinois State University, and she described his background and experience. She highlighted the high grade point average of the student-athletes at Springfield and said the director of intercollegiate athletics is charged with enhancing success of student-athletes both in and out of class. Mr. Dale inquired about the division of the teams at Illinois State University, and Dr. Koch stated their teams are Division I.

**Approve Project Budget and Award Construction Contracts for Renovation,  
Townsend Hall and Wardall Hall, Illinois Street Residence Halls, Urbana**

Next, Mr. Estrada asked Dr. Ghosh to discuss the recommendation to approve the project budget and award construction contracts for renovation at Townsend Hall and Wardall Hall at the Illinois Street Residence Halls at Urbana and noted this item would usually be discussed at the meeting of the Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee, which was unable to meet as scheduled. Dr. Ghosh gave some background on this project and explained that the bids received in September 2019 were initially higher than expected and that the decision was made not to proceed with the Wardall Hall portion of the project at that time. He told the committee that new bids for Wardall Hall were received in November 2019 that were \$4.0 million less than those received previously, and he stated that this agenda item recommends approval of a project budget increase to accommodate the Wardall Hall renovation. Dr. Ghosh also listed the contracts included in the agenda item for approval, and he reported on the timeline for the project.

Mr. Estrada noted that these items are not usually discussed by this committee, and Mr. Cepeda, chair of the Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee, thanked Mr. Estrada for adding this item to the committee's agenda. Mr. Cepeda credited Dr. Ghosh for rebidding the contracts for Wardall Hall and highlighted the 23 percent Minority and Female Business Enterprise (MAFBE) participation rate for this project. Mr. Dale inquired about the change in bids and expressed concern regarding cost overruns, and Dr. Ghosh explained that the change in

bids was due to timing. Dr. Ghosh stated he did not anticipate cost overruns on this project. President Killeen also commented on the project, its cost, and the change in bids from September to November. Dr. Jones stated that the result is a good outcome. Mr. Edwards discussed cost overruns and efforts made to more accurately plan for project budgets. Dr. Ghosh explained that previously, project budgets were established without a great deal of information, and he said the new process requires early planning to create a more realistic project budget with fewer cost overruns.

#### Revisions to University Policy on Background Checks

Mr. Estrada asked Ms. Jami M. Painter, associate vice president and chief human resources officer, to report on proposed revisions to the University policy on background checks. Ms. Painter said the recommended changes are the result of the first triannual review of the policy and that the proposed revisions are minor and pertain primarily to language to update system and university nomenclature. She said the review committee recommending these revisions is comprised of human resource professionals, faculty, University Senates Conference members, and employee advisory groups representing civil service staff and academic professional staff.

There was no objection to the items listed above going forward to the full Board for voting.

#### PRESENTATION

## Policy on Background Checks: Annual Report

Next, Ms. Painter gave an annual report on the policy on background checks (materials on file with the secretary). Ms. Painter gave an overview of the policy, which was approved by the Board at its September 2015 meeting, and described the process related to the policy. She reported on the number of posted job vacancies; faculty and academic professional applicants and civil service exam requests; number of background checks conducted; and background check costs. Ms. Painter showed that 0.1 percent of offers were withdrawn based on the background check review process and said the average turnaround time ranges from 2.7 to 4.8 days, depending on the university. She told the committee that the policy typically does not slow down the recruitment process, has not had an adverse impact on recruitment, and mitigates risk to the University.

## Legislative Update

Next, Mr. Estrada asked Ms. Jennifer M. Creasey, senior director of State relations, and Ms. Melissa S. Haas, associate director of federal relations, to give a legislative update. Ms. Creasey said that in 2019, advocacy efforts increased due in part to the expansion of the Illinois Connection program, which has grown to 21,000 members. She listed a series of events and other advocacy work that helped garner support for the University and its initiatives throughout the State. Ms. Creasey described goals for 2020, which include advocating for the Fiscal Year 2021 budget request and regulatory reforms and

continuing to create partnerships throughout the state. She listed several events taking place in February, and she introduced Ms. Theresa L. Thomas, who will be serving as visiting advocacy coordinator.

Ms. Haas gave an overview of events and outcomes of recent legislation. She identified priorities for 2020, which include the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and a hearing on the future of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). She listed upcoming Illinois delegation plans and highlighted upcoming visits to the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Mr. Estrada thanked Ms. Creasey and Ms. Haas for the report. Mr. McMillan remarked that the University may be able to provide input regarding the appointment of the Illinois Director of Agriculture. He noted it is an important position and encouraged Ms. Creasey to facilitate this opportunity for the University to advise the State on this appointment.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was no business presented under this aegis.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Estrada asked if there was any new business to discuss, and there was none. He announced that the next meeting of the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee is scheduled for March 11, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. in Urbana.

MEETING ADJOURNED

On motion of Ms. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Smart, the meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

There were no “nay” votes.

Respectfully submitted,

DEDRA M. WILLIAMS  
*Secretary*

RICARDO ESTRADA  
*Chair*

EILEEN B. CABLE  
*Special Assistant to the Secretary*