

MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE, PERSONNEL, AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

This meeting of the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois was held via teleconference¹ on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, beginning at 2:01 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; Mr. Austin Verthein, student trustee, Springfield. Mr. Donald J. Edwards, chair of the Board of Trustees, attended the meeting. Ms. Naomi D. Jakobsson; Dr. Stuart C. King; Mr. Lester H. McKeever, treasurer; and Ms. Jocelyn Bravo, voting student trustee, Chicago, 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. Karen M. Whitney, interim chancellor, University of Illinois at Springfield, and vice president, University of Illinois; Dr. Avijit Ghosh,

¹ Per Governor J. B. Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-52.

comptroller (and vice president/chief financial officer); Dr. Joseph T. Walsh Jr., interim vice president for economic development and innovation; Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows, University counsel; Mr. Thomas P. Hardy, executive director for University relations; and Mr. Gregory J. Knott, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University. President Killeen introduced Mr. William J. Maher, professor of library administration, Urbana, and member of the University Senates Conference Statutes and Governance Committee. 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 July 22, 2020, and there were none. Mr. Estrada requested a motion to approve the minutes, and on motion of Ms. Smart, seconded by Mr. McMillan, the minutes were approved by the following vote:² Aye, Mr. Dale, Mr. Estrada, Ms. Holmes, Mr. McMillan, Ms. Smart, Mr. Verthein; No, none.

REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED BOARD ITEMS
FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

Mr. Estrada introduced the recommended items within the purview of this committee on the Board's agenda at its meeting on September 10, 2020. All recommended items discussed at the meeting are on file with the secretary.

² Per 5 ILCS 120/7(e), all votes are conducted by roll call.

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

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

Approve Academic and Administrative Appointments for Contract Year 2020-2021

Mr. Estrada asked Dr. Wilson to report on the recommendation to approve academic and administrative appointments for contract year 2020-2021. Dr. Wilson stated that this item appears before the Board on an annual basis and is part of the annual reappointment process for faculty, academic professionals, and some other members of the staff and is commonly known as the “Gray Book.” She said there was no merit salary program this year, and that 80 percent of appointments do not reflect a salary increase. Dr. Wilson said 18 percent received an increase due to promotions or terms mandated by labor contracts. She told the committee that 10 percent of appointments show a voluntary 10 percent salary reduction due to COVID-19.

Delegate Authority to Modify Compensation in Multiyear Employment Agreements

Dr. Wilson then discussed the recommendation to delegate authority to modify compensation in multiyear employment agreements. She explained this would give chancellors the flexibility to facilitate voluntary and temporary salary reductions for certain employees with multiyear contracts. Mr. Dale asked if these are voluntary or if employees are being asked to do this, and Dr. Wilson confirmed it is voluntary. Dr. Jones added that most of these voluntary reductions are from staff in the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, and he said the director and head coaches committed to taking voluntary reductions. Ms. Bravo inquired about the use of these funds, and Dr. Wilson and Dr. Ghosh indicated they would be added to a student emergency fund at each university.

Approve Minutes of the Board of Trustees as the
Sole Member of Prairieland Energy Inc., Meeting;
Approve President, Prairieland Energy Inc.;
Amend the Prairieland Energy Inc., Bylaws;
Amend Agreement with Prairieland Energy Inc.

Mr. Estrada asked Mr. Michael B. Bass, special advisor to the president, to report on items that would be on the agenda at the meeting of the Board of Trustees as the sole member of Prairieland Energy Inc. Mr. Bass read the recommendations and asked if there were any questions, of which there were none.

PRESENTATION

Legislative Update

Next, Mr. Estrada asked Ms. Jennifer M. Creasey, senior director of State relations, and Mr. Paul Weinberger, director of federal relations, to give a legislative update. Ms. Creasey reported on advocacy efforts and highlighted the University's work related to COVID-19. She said there is statewide interest in Shield and SHIELD Illinois. Ms. Creasey also commented on capitol priorities, engagement with Black and Latino Caucuses, and the Illinois Connection recruitment campaign. She showed a recruitment video for Illinois Connection and encouraged all trustees to join.

Mr. Weinberger gave an update on priorities at the federal level. He commented on pandemic relief funding for higher education and federal interest in the Shield COVID-19 testing program. He said that Dr. Walsh testified before a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives on the impact of COVID-19 on the research enterprise. Mr. Weinberger discussed a new student advocacy campaign and noted the impact of the pandemic on students. President Killeen remarked on the role that scholarship and leadership played in creating opportunities nationally and internationally, and he said the University is staying grounded in its mission for public good. He provided some information about SHIELD Illinois, which is working with entities within the State, and Shield T3, which is pursuing opportunities beyond Illinois. Mr. Estrada and Ms. Creasey discussed the process for signing up for Illinois Connection, and Ms. Creasey described its many advantages. Mr. McMillan urged trustees to join.

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 November 11, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. at a location to be determined.

MEETING ADJOURNED

On motion of Mr. McMillan, seconded by Ms. Holmes, the meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m. by the following vote: Aye, Mr. Dale, Mr. Estrada, Ms. Holmes, Mr. McMillan, Ms. Smart, Mr. Verthein; No, none.

Respectfully submitted,

GREGORY J. KNOTT
Secretary

RICARDO ESTRADA
Chair

EILEEN B. CABLE
Special Assistant to the Secretary