

# MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

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July 12, 2017



This meeting 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 Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, on Wednesday, July 12, 2017, beginning at 1:04 p.m. Chair Timothy N. Koritz called the meeting to order and asked the secretary to call the roll. The following members of the Board were present: Mr. Ramón Cepeda, Mr. Donald J. Edwards, Dr. Timothy N. Koritz, Mr. Edward L. McMillan, Mr. James D. Montgomery, Ms. Jill B. Smart. Mr. Patrick J. Fitzgerald and Governor Bruce Rauner were absent. Ms. Karina Reyes, voting student trustee, Chicago; Mr. Trayshawn M. W. Mitchell, student trustee, Urbana; and Mr. Edwin Robles, student trustee, Springfield, were in attendance. President Timothy L. Killeen was present.

Also present were the officers of the Board: Mr. Lester H. McKeever Jr., treasurer; Mr. Walter K. Knorr, comptroller (and vice president/chief financial officer); Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows, University counsel; and Ms. Dedra M. Williams, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University. Ms. Marna K. Fuesting and Ms. C. Ellen Foran, both assistant secretaries, and Ms. Eileen B. Cable, special assistant to the secretary, were also in attendance.

The following University officers were also present: 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; Mr. Walter K. Knorr, comptroller (and vice president/ chief financial officer); Dr. Edward Seidel, vice president for economic development and innovation; and Mr. Thomas P. Hardy, executive director for University relations.

### OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Koritz welcomed all in attendance to the Board's annual retreat. He said that today's discussions would focus on three issues facing higher education—civic engagement, campus inclusiveness and freedom of expression, and globalization and immigration—and he asked President Killeen to comment.

President Killeen thanked his colleagues for their participation in today's meeting and said that the retreat provides a rare opportunity to discuss important topics in higher education that are all reflected in the Strategic Framework. He said that the goal of today's discussions is to create statements reflecting the group's position on three issues facing higher education. He then introduced three individuals that were invited to share their experience and depth of knowledge: Dr. Julie Ellison, professor of American culture and English, University of Michigan; Dr. Na'ilah Suad Nasir, former vice chancellor for equity and inclusion at the University of California at Berkeley and newly appointed president of the Spencer Foundation in Chicago; and Mr. Peter McPherson,<sup>1</sup> president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. President Killeen then asked Dr. Ellison to comment on the role of civic engagement and education in public universities.

Dr. Ellison emphasized the use of active terms to describe civic engagement in higher education and said that it involves active citizens working together to build traditions and new social norms. She discussed the relationship between community engagement and civic engagement and remarked on the realities of the equity imperative. Dr. Ellison emphasized full participation and the realization of full potential through purposeful work, and she described a model for distributed engagement.

Next, President Killeen asked Dr. Nasir to discuss campus inclusiveness and freedom of expression. Dr. Nasir thanked the Board for the invitation to the retreat and said that campus inclusiveness and freedom of expression play a unique and critically important role in higher education. She emphasized the notion of the public good and moving society forward in a space of humanity that honors and respects differences. Dr. Nasir described her background and experience at the University of California at Berkeley and discussed the balance of protecting freedom of expression and keeping students safe. She said that vulnerable groups are often the target of hate speech and referred to the impact of living in a legacy of inequality. Dr. Nasir stated that students, faculty, and staff cannot thrive in areas where humanity is denied and said the challenge is to engage multiple views in a

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<sup>1</sup>Mr. McPherson attended the meeting via telephone.

safe environment. She described a goal of honoring humanity and creating a trusting campus community.

President Killeen then asked Mr. McPherson to comment on globalization and immigration in higher education. Mr. McPherson described the importance of globalization and immigration said that students need to gain an understanding of differences in the world through a variety of experiences and a diverse student body. He discussed the critical role of foreign-born faculty and their contributions to research, and he commented on some important issues that are being addressed by these scholars and scientists. Mr. McPherson remarked on the history of Illinois and the role of the University, and he discussed the benefits of globalization and immigration to the University and the state. He commented on the impact of potential legislation on recruitment and its effect on the University and region.

President Killeen introduced the facilitators for the three discussion groups: Dr. Antoinette M. Burton, professor of history and gender and women's studies, Urbana; Dr. Edward Seidel, vice president for economic development and innovation; and Dr. Vikram D. Amar, dean, College of Law, Urbana. President Killeen explained that these individuals would lead the participants through a collaborative discussion exercise. Dr. Koritz announced that retreat participants would now break into groups for discussion. At 2:20 p.m., the meeting recessed.

At 3:31 p.m., the meeting resumed, with all Board members previously recorded as being present in attendance, except Mr. Edwards, who left after the small group discussions. The facilitator from each group reported on the discussions held during the breakout sessions, and these summaries were also added to slides that were projected throughout the presentations (materials on file with the secretary). After the groups presented their summaries, Dr. Koritz asked if there were any comments. Dr. Nasir emphasized moving forward with transparency and iterating through communities, and Mr. McPherson highlighted the greatness of the University despite its challenges. Dr. Koritz thanked all in attendance for their participation. Ms. Smart remarked on the passion, energy, and commitment to the University that was evident in the discussions held throughout the day, and Mr. Montgomery referred to the great talent at the University.

President Killen thanked the Board for hosting the retreat and said he agreed with Ms. Smart that there was great passion, commitment, and energy on display during the discussions. He summarized proceedings, saying that the land-grant system was designed and created to connect to the mission of public good, and these discussions are central to that idea. President Killeen remarked that the words on the University seal of "Learning and Labor" seem to be a connective theme to the discussions on the topics of the retreat of civic engagement, campus inclusiveness and freedom of expression, and global principles. He discussed the importance for the University community to grapple with these issues and move beyond purely rights-based approaches to a humane proactive view of what it means to be a university in this evolving sphere, with a deeper understanding of the perceptions of life, the celebration of differences, and the appreciation that sings within that. President Killeen noted that

the one word—"learning"—was the prevalent term threaded through all of these important issues, and he reiterated that today's discussions will provide a grounding platform to build statements on these important topics for the University.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

At 4:08 p.m., Chair Koritz requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Ms. Smart, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the meeting adjourned. There were no "nay" votes.

DEDRA M. WILLIAMS  
*Secretary*

TIMOTHY N. KORITZ  
*Chair*