

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
JANUARY 20, 2021

This meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois was held via teleconference<sup>1</sup> on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, beginning at 2:45 p.m.

Trustee Donald J. Edwards, chair of the committee, convened the meeting and asked the secretary to call the roll. The following committee members were present: Mr. Kareem Dale, Mr. Donald J. Edwards, and Ms. Naomi D. Jakobsson. Mr. Ricardo Estrada; Dr. Stuart C. King; Mr. Ali Mirza, student trustee, Urbana; and Mr. Austin Verthein, student trustee, Springfield, attended the meeting as guests.

Also present were Mr. Lester H. McKeever, treasurer; 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 Urbana-Champaign, and vice president, University of Illinois System; Dr. Michael D. Amiridis, chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and vice president, University of Illinois System; Dr. Karen M. Whitney, interim chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and vice president, University of Illinois System; Dr. Avijit Ghosh, comptroller (and vice president/chief financial officer); Dr. Joseph T. Walsh Jr., interim vice president for

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<sup>1</sup> Per Governor J. B. Pritzker's Executive Order 2021-01.

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. Attached is a listing of other staff members and some members of the media in attendance at this meeting.

Mr. Edwards welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes from the committee meeting held November 11, 2020, and there were none. On motion of Ms. Jakobsson, seconded by Mr. Dale, the minutes were approved by the following roll call vote:<sup>2</sup> Aye, Mr. Dale, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Jakobsson; No, none.

REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED BOARD ITEMS  
FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ON JANUARY 21, 2021

Mr. Edwards introduced the recommended items within the purview of this committee on the Board's agenda at its meeting on January 21, 2021, 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

Mr. Edwards asked Mr. Knott to comment on the item recommending appointments to the faculty, administrative/professional staff, and intercollegiate athletic staff. Mr. Knott

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

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 he encouraged committee members to contact him with any questions.

Approve Tuition Rates, Academic Year 2021-2022;  
Approve Student Fees for Urbana, Chicago, and Springfield, Academic Year 2021-2022;  
Approve Rate Changes for University-Operated Housing Facilities,  
Urbana, Chicago, and Springfield, Academic Year 2021-2022

Next, Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Wilson to discuss the recommendations to approve tuition rates, student fees, and rate changes for university-operated housing facilities for Academic Year 2021-2022. Dr. Wilson began her presentation (materials on file with the secretary) by referring to a commitment across the University of Illinois System to provide access for Illinois students, keep education affordable, and ensure quality and competitiveness. She showed that the universities at Urbana and Chicago enroll a higher percentage of first-time freshman undergraduates who are residents than do their peer groups and noted that although not higher than its peers, a full 90 percent of first-time freshman undergraduates at the University of Illinois Springfield are Illinois residents. Dr. Wilson showed that institutional aid accounts for about half of all undergraduate financial aid and told the committee that University of Illinois System aid has increased by 117 percent over the last 10 years. She discussed the impact of financial aid and scholarships and showed the percentage of students who pay less than full tuition and fees at each university. Dr. Wilson presented a graph depicting the resident undergraduate

tuition and mandatory fees for Academic Year 2020-2021 at each university compared to its peer institutions.

Dr. Wilson then reviewed goals and considerations for determining the proposed tuition rate for the coming year and stated that the universities are proposing no increase in the base tuition rate for new resident undergraduates for Academic Year 2021-2022. She said this was based on extensive discussion, and she reminded the committee that the University of Illinois froze in-state undergraduate tuition for five consecutive years until last year's minor increase, which was then covered by the University due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She said there is also no recommended increase in the non-resident domestic or international base tuition rates for undergraduates at each university. She then reviewed graduate and professional tuition rates at each university, most of which are recommended to remain constant with only a very small number of modest increases proposed.

Next, Dr. Wilson discussed student fees and assessments and referred to the process for setting student fees, which are reviewed by committees that include student representatives. She said that the student health insurance fee and transportation fee at Chicago and the student health insurance fee at Springfield have not yet been determined. She showed that the recommended student fees and assessments include a modest 0.8 percent increase at Urbana; a modest 0.8 increase at Chicago; and no increase at Springfield. Dr. Wilson showed the proposed basic rates for undergraduate room and board at each university, with a 2.0 percent increase at Urbana; a 2.6 percent increase at

Chicago, and a 1.4 percent increase at Springfield. She stated that the proposed increases are aimed at covering inflationary and labor contract costs.

Dr. Wilson concluded her presentation by reiterating the commitment to affordability and said this would be the seventh year with virtually no increase in tuition for Illinois resident undergraduate students. She also reminded the committee that the tuition rate is guaranteed for students for four years.

Dr. King inquired about off-campus housing costs. Dr. Wilson said she would locate this information and emphasized that residence hall living is accompanied by services, support, and activities not provided by private housing. She told the committee that research demonstrates that students are more likely to succeed academically when they live in university-sponsored housing.

Ms. Jakobsson expressed support for the recommendation of no tuition increase. This was followed by a brief discussion on enrollment for the Spring semester. Mr. Mirza commended leadership across the University of Illinois System and emphasized the importance of affordability, and he reiterated the importance of student involvement in the student fee setting process. President Killeen said the proposed recommendations reflect seven years of cost containment and thanked all involved, particularly the provosts. Mr. Edwards highlighted the impact of serving a high percentage of in-state students and the guaranteed tuition rate, and he also referred to the Illinois Commitment at Urbana, which covers 100 percent of tuition and fees for families with incomes of \$67,000 or less per year.

Extend Appointment of Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield,  
and Vice President, University of Illinois

Next, Dr. Wilson reported on the recommendation to approve the recommendation to extend the appointment of Dr. Whitney as interim chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and vice president, University of Illinois System. Dr. Wilson said Dr. Whitney's one-year appointment ends on June 30, 2021, and that the proposed recommendation would extend her appointment through June 30, 2022. Dr. Wilson said Dr. Whitney has done an outstanding job and that this extension would also provide continuity during the pandemic. Dr. Wilson said she and President Killeen met with a variety of stakeholders at the university who expressed support for this recommendation. President Killeen commented on some restructuring at the University of Illinois Springfield and said that extending Dr. Whitney's appointment allows for continued momentum. He also remarked on her success in the position to date. Both Ms. Jakobsson and Mr. Verthein expressed support for this recommendation and commended Dr. Whitney on an admirable job.

Appoint Interim Vice Chancellor of Strategic Marketing and Communications, Chicago

Mr. Edwards then asked Dr. Amiridis to discuss the recommendation to appoint an interim vice chancellor of strategic marketing and communications at Chicago. Dr. Amiridis stated that he recommends Ms. Sherri McGinnis Gonzalez, presently senior executive director of public affairs at the University of Illinois Chicago, serve as interim vice chancellor of strategic marketing and communications. Dr. Amiridis said Ms.

McGinnis Gonzalez will continue to serve as senior executive director of public affairs, and he described her background and experience. Dr. Amiridis stated that the Office of Public and Government Affairs is being reorganized and that Ms. McGinnis Gonzalez will serve in this role until a permanent vice chancellor is appointed.

#### Award Honorary Degree, Chicago

Dr. Amiridis then reported on the recommendation to award an honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering to Dr. Christopher B. Burke, president of Christopher B. Burke Engineering. Dr. Amiridis described Dr. Burke's background, impact of his work, and influence in the field of civil engineering. He said Dr. Burke has been a generous supporter of the College of Engineering at Chicago and has hired numerous students for internships and full-time jobs after graduation.

#### Appoint University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, University Library, Chicago

Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Susan Poser, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Chicago, to provide information about the recommendation to appoint a University librarian and dean of libraries in the University Library at Chicago. Dr. Poser stated that Ms. Rhea Ballard-Thrower is being recommended as University librarian and dean of libraries of the University Library at Chicago. Dr. Poser described Ms. Ballard-Thrower's background and experience and said the appointment begins February 1, 2021.

Eliminate the Master of Laws in Estate Planning,  
the Master of Laws in International Business and Trade Law,

the Master of Laws in Privacy and Technology Law,  
and the Master of Laws in Tax Law, UIC John Marshall Law School, Chicago

Dr. Poser then discussed the recommendation to eliminate the Master of Laws in Estate Planning, in International Business and Trade Law, in Privacy and Technology Law, and in Tax Law, stating that a faculty analysis concluded these four programs do not meet enrollment projections and do not align with the vision of the college. She said the college will continue to offer three Master of Laws (LLM) degrees.

Appoint Appointment of and Delegate to Comptroller Authority to Execute  
Multi-Year Contract for Head Varsity Coach, Football, Urbana

Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Jones to discuss the recommended appointment of the head varsity coach for football in the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics at Urbana. Dr. Jones stated that Mr. Brett Arnold Bielema is recommended for the appointment as head varsity football coach. Dr. Jones described the search process and Mr. Bielema's background and experience. He reviewed the details of Mr. Bielema's contract, and President Killeen noted that the salary for this position is funded through the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics rather than by State funds or tuition dollars. Mr. Edwards reiterated that the salaries of all coaches are paid by revenue from the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, endowments, and gifts. Ms. Jakobsson stated that this is an important point to communicate to the public.

Appoint Associates to the Center for Advanced Study, Urbana;  
Appoint Fellows to the Center for Advanced Study, Urbana



Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Andreas C. Cangellaris, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Urbana, to discuss the recommendations to appoint associates and fellows to the Center for Advanced Study at Urbana. Dr. Cangellaris explained that such appointments provide for one semester of release time from teaching for self-initiated scholarly study. He briefly described the Center for Advanced Study and listed the faculty members recommended to be associates and fellows for Academic Year 2021-2022. Dr. Cangellaris said associates and fellows are selected in an annual competition.

Establish the Master of Science in  
Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications, College of Agricultural,  
Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana;  
and Eliminate the Master of Science in Agricultural Education,  
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate  
College, Urbana

Dr. Cangellaris then reported on the recommendation to establish the Master of Science in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications in the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College at Urbana and said that this program will replace the existing Master of Science in Agricultural Education, which is proposed for elimination. He explained that these proposals are the next step of the reorganization process of merging the programs in Agricultural Communications and Agricultural Education, a merger that was approved by the Board in 2019. Dr. Cangellaris provided additional information about these two degree programs and rationale for the proposed changes.

Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences  
in Linguistics and Teaching English as a Second Language,

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

Dr. Cangellaris discussed the recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Linguistics and Teaching English as a Second Language in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Urbana. He gave a brief overview of the curriculum and advantages of offering this program at the undergraduate level. Dr. Cangellaris said there would be no significant impact on faculty resources, student-to-faculty ratios, the library, and other instructional resources from this new program.

Establish the Master of Science in Cybersecurity Management,  
College of Business and Management, Springfield

Mr. Edwards then asked Dr. Dennis Papini, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Springfield, to provide information about the recommendation to establish the Master of Science in Cybersecurity Management in the College of Business and Management, Springfield. Dr. Papini said this proposed degree is designed to develop leadership, analytical thinking, and management skills in cybersecurity management as required in the job markets for private, public, and nonprofit organizations. He described aspects of the program and gave examples of course topics. Dr. Papini said it will be offered in both on-ground and online formats and is expected to attract working professionals, as well as continuing students.

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

OLD BUSINESS

There was no business presented under this aegis.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Edwards asked if there was any new business, and there was none. He announced that the next meeting of this committee is scheduled for March 10, 2021, at 2:45 p.m., at a location to be determined.

MEETING ADJOURNED

On motion of Ms. Jakobsson, seconded by Mr. Dale, the meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m. by the following roll call vote: Aye, Mr. Dale, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Jakobsson; No, none.

Respectfully submitted,

GREGORY J. KNOTT  
*Secretary*

DONALD J. EDWARDS  
*Chair*

EILEEN B. CABLE  
*Special Assistant to the Secretary*