

MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE, PERSONNEL, AND ETHICS COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

JANUARY 20, 2021

This meeting of the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics 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 2:01 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. Naomi D. Jakobsson. Mr. Donald J. Edwards, chair of the Board of Trustees, attended the meeting. Dr. Stuart C. King and Mr. Austin Verthein, student trustee, Springfield, attended the meeting as guests.

Also present were Mr. Lester H. McKeever Jr., 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. President Killeen introduced Dr. Lynn Fisher, associate professor in the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Springfield, 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 November 11, 2020, and there were none. Mr. Estrada requested a motion to approve the minutes, and 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. Estrada, 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. Estrada introduced the recommended items within the purview of this committee on the Board's agenda at its meeting on January 21, 2021. All recommended items discussed at the meeting are on file with the secretary.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

Extend Appointment of Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield,  
and vice president, University of Illinois

Mr. Estrada asked Dr. Wilson to report on the recommendation to approve extending 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 this 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 stakeholders who expressed support for this recommendation.

Authorize UI Singapore Research LLC to Expand  
its Business Purpose and Change its Name

Mr. Estrada asked Dr. Ghosh to discuss the recommendation to authorize UI Singapore Research, LLC to expand its business purpose and change its name. Dr. Ghosh said that the purpose of this proposed change is to allow this University-Related Organization (URO) to expand its mission and presence beyond Singapore without creating multiple UROs. He said the proposed name would be Illinois Global Gateway, LLC. He said this recommendation also authorizes the board of managers to amend its Articles of Organization to reflect its expanded geographic scope. Mr. Estrada asked if there will be changes to the board of managers. Dr. Ghosh said this is being considered and that any proposed changes will be brought to the Board for consideration.

## PRESENTATIONS

### Policy on Background Checks: Annual Report

Mr. Estrada asked Ms. Jami M. Painter, associate vice president and chief human resources officer, to give 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 background check process. She reported on the number of posted job vacancies; applicants; number of background checks conducted; and background check costs. Ms. Painter showed that 0.3 percent of offers were withdrawn based on the background check review process and said the average turnaround time ranges from 3.3 days to 4.3 days, depending on the university. She said the turnaround time is slightly longer than last year because of delays

related to COVID-19. Ms. Painter 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

At 2:22 p.m., 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 gave an update to the 102<sup>nd</sup> Illinois General Assembly and highlighted the election of State Rep. Emanuel “Chris” Welch (D-Hillside) as the first Black house speaker in the state’s history. She referred to his ties to the University of Illinois System and said he is a graduate of the UIC John Marshall Law School. Ms. Creasey told the committee that UI Caucus membership is at an all-time high with 70 members. She referred to the legislative agenda, listed priorities for the Office of Governmental Relations, and reported on upcoming advocacy events. Ms. Creasey responded to questions about changes in Senate leadership and legislative committee and subcommittee members. She also discussed potential procurement reforms that would have a positive impact on vendor diversity.

Mr. Weinberger referred to a tumultuous and busy start to the year at the federal level and mentioned an upcoming virtual event with President Killeen organized by Illinois Connection. He discussed COVID-19 relief funding and briefly discussed changes positively impacting higher education under President Joseph Biden, including

the preservation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy. Mr. Dale inquired about impacts to federal student loans, and Mr. Weinberger referred to initiatives to provide loan relief for student borrowers.

Mr. Estrada thanked Ms. Creasey and Mr. Weinberger for the report.

#### 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 10, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. at a location to be determined.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

On motion of Ms. Jakobsson, seconded by Mr. Dale, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. by the following roll call vote: Aye, Mr. Dale, Mr. Estrada, Ms. Jakobsson; No, none.

Respectfully submitted,

GREGORY J. KNOTT  
*Secretary*

RICARDO ESTRADA  
*Chair*

EILEEN B. CABLE  
*Special Assistant to the Secretary*