

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
MARCH 10, 2021

This meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois was held via teleconference¹ on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, beginning at 3:00 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: Ms. Tami Craig Schilling; Mr. Kareem Dale; Mr. Donald J. Edwards; Mr. Ricardo Estrada; Ms. Naomi D. Jakobsson; Mr. Ali Mirza, student trustee, Urbana; and Mr. Austin Verthein, student trustee, Springfield. Ms. Jocelyn Bravo, student trustee, Chicago, was absent. Ms. Sarah C. Phalen attended the meeting as a guest.

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. 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 economic development and innovation; Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows, University counsel; Ms. Kirsten Ruby, interim director for University relations; and Mr. Gregory J. Knott,

¹ Per Governor J. B. Pritzker's Executive Order 2021-04.

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 January 20, 2021, and there were none. On motion of Ms. Jakobsson, seconded by Mr. Mirza, the minutes were approved by the following roll call vote:² Aye, Ms. Craig Schilling, Mr. Dale, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Estrada, Ms. Jakobsson, Mr. Mirza, Mr. Verthein; No, none; Absent, Ms. Bravo.

REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED BOARD ITEMS
FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ON MARCH 11, 2021

Mr. Edwards introduced the recommended items within the purview of this committee that are scheduled for the Board's agenda at its meeting on March 11, 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 explained that the appointments of faculty, administrative and professional staff, and

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

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.

Sabbatical Leaves of Absence, 2021-2022

Mr. Edwards then asked Dr. Wilson to discuss the recommendation for sabbatical leaves of absence for Academic Year 2021-2022. Dr. Wilson explained that sabbatical leaves of absence permit faculty to have focused time to conduct research, bring projects to completion, or engage in other types of faculty development. She told the committee that sabbaticals are earned by tenured faculty after a certain number of years in service and require a proposed plan of study that is reviewed at each level of the university. Dr. Wilson stated that there are 198 recommended sabbatical leaves of absence, which is about average for a given year. She reported that while there were 199 sabbatical requests last year, only 137 were taken due to COVID-19. Dr. Wilson stated that about 90 percent of approved sabbatical leaves of absence are actually taken during a typical year; roughly 10 percent are postponed or canceled because of unforeseen circumstances.

Approve Student Health Insurance Rate for University of Illinois Springfield, Academic Year 2021-2022

Next, Dr. Wilson reported on the recommendation to approve the student health insurance rate for the University of Illinois Springfield, Academic Year 2021-2022. She stated the proposed rate would increase by \$55, or 6.2 percent, per semester for all students enrolled in the insurance plan. Despite this proposed increase, she noted that

there is no increase in student fees at Springfield for 2021-2022. Dr. Wilson told the committee that students can opt out of this insurance if they are insured through another policy, and she reported that 60 percent of students at Springfield, 60 percent of students at Chicago, and 40 percent of students at Urbana opt out of the insurance. She noted that the 3 percent increase in the insurance rate at Chicago that was approved last year actually was not put into effect due to COVID-19 and will go into effect this year; the rates are not changing at Urbana. Ms. Craig Schilling asked how this rate compares to peer benchmarks, and Dr. Wilson indicated it is comparable. She stated that the policy features an increase in the number of covered mental health providers, which the students requested. Mr. Edwards emphasized that this would be an increase of \$55 per semester for 40 percent of the students, accompanied by no increases in tuition or fees.

Appoint Faculty Fellows to the Institute for the Humanities,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Susan Poser, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Chicago, to discuss the recommendation to appoint faculty fellows to the Institute for the Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Chicago. Dr. Poser stated that members of the faculty that are recommended for appointment as faculty fellows to the Institute for the Humanities are released from teaching and administrative duties for one year in order to devote full effort to research. She said this is a competitive process and listed the six faculty members recommended for appointment.

Establish the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Design,
College of Engineering, Chicago

Dr. Poser then reported on the recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Design in the College of Engineering at Chicago. She said this is an interdisciplinary program shared between the Department of Computer Science in the College of Engineering and the School of Design in the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts. Dr. Poser referred to many years of collaboration between the two colleges and said the goal of the program is to foster a generation of technically savvy designers and creative scientists who operate between these disciplines. She provided additional information about the program and said there is only one other program of its kind in the country.

President Killeen asked Ms. Daria Tsoupikova, associate professor in the School of Design, to comment on the proposed degree program. Ms. Tsoupikova described the vision for the program and gave an overview of the areas of study now and in the future. She also commented on practical applications of the program, and she told the committee that the degree was proposed by students and embraced by the faculty, based on the history of collaboration between the two colleges.

Establish the Master of Science in Integrative Biology,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

Next, Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Andreas C. Cangellaris, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Urbana, to report on the recommendation to establish the Master of Science in Integrated Biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the

Graduate College at Urbana. Dr. Cangellaris stated that this program would fill a gap that currently exists and would serve students who graduate with bachelor's degrees in integrative biology who want to further develop their knowledge and pursue a master's degree in that field.

Establish the Master of Science in Biomedical Image Computing,
The Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Urbana

Dr. Cangellaris then discussed the recommendation to establish the Master of Science in Biomedical Image Computing in The Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College at Urbana. He said the proposed program blends together biomedical imaging science and machine learning, two research strengths of The Grainger College of Engineering. Dr. Cangellaris said biomedical image computing is a large and rapidly growing industry and research field, and he told the committee that the proposed degree addresses an unmet need. He described prospective careers for graduates and said the program is designed to be completed in three semesters of full-time study. Dr. Cangellaris reported that the department intends to use departmental and The Grainger College of Engineering funding to fill two new tenure-track faculty positions, and he said existing faculty in the Department of Bioengineering will assist with teaching in the program. Dr. Cangellaris said the program is expected to generate revenue through tuition funds at year three and that a program coordinator will be hired at that time.

Rename the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics,
The Grainger College of Engineering, Urbana;

Eliminate the Bachelor of Science in Physics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana; Eliminate the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Physics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

Dr. Cangellaris then reported on three related recommendations, beginning with the recommendation to rename the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics as the Bachelor of Science in Physics in The Grainger College of Engineering. He said this name change is part of a larger restructuring of undergraduate physics education at the university. He noted that the recommendations to eliminate both the Bachelor of Science in Physics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Physics are part of the restructuring, noting that these two degree programs are essentially the same degree as the Engineering Physics degree in The Grainger College of Engineering. Dr. Cangellaris said that this consolidation plan will result in a single, renamed undergraduate physics degree that has several benefits, including a reduction in student, parent, and recruiter confusion. Mr. Estrada asked if there will be a tuition increase associated with these changes, and Dr. Cangellaris said the tuition will be the same.

Establish the Master of Public Policy,
College of Public Affairs and Administration, Springfield

Mr. Edwards then asked Dr. Dennis Papini, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Springfield, to discuss the recommendation to establish the Master of Public Policy (MPP) in the College of Public Affairs and Administration at Springfield. Dr. Papini explained this degree will prepare students with the skills and abilities to analyze

and evaluate public policy to serve the public interest and advance civic engagement. He remarked on the advantage of the university's location in the state capital and described the differences between this proposed degree and the existing Master of Public Administration. Dr. Papini provided information about the coursework for the proposed MPP program and said it will be offered in face-to-face, blended, and online formats. He said no additional funding is required for the new program.

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

Dr. Papini then reported on the recommendation to establish the Master of Science in Health Informatics and said this is a fast-growing field with various healthcare informatics applications. He discussed the goals of the program and said graduates will be marketable in high-demand fields such as health data analytics and information systems in health-care organizations. He told the committee the program is designed for completion within 12 months but may take longer based on personal and professional circumstances. Dr. Papini described the curriculum, said the program will be offered in an online format, and stated it is expected to attract working professionals, as well as students who seek competencies in applying acquired information technology skills.

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

Dr. Papini provided information about the recommendation to establish the Master of Science in Human Resource Management in the College of Business and Management at

Springfield. He stated the proposed degree is designed to prepare graduate students to become organizational leaders and be well equipped to handle the complexities of human resources in the modern workplace. Dr. Papini described the curriculum and referred to courses that focus on attaining skills in specialized areas, such as predictive analytics and strategic planning. He said the 30-hour degree program builds on a successful graduate certificate currently offered and is expected to be of interest to students seeking a more specialized graduate degree in business than a Master of Business Administration. Dr. Papini said the proposed program will be comprised of eight-week courses offered in both face-to-face and online delivery modes and that it will be possible for students to complete the program in one calendar year.

Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Secondary English Education,
College of Education and Human Services, Springfield; Establish the Bachelor of Arts
in Secondary History Education, College of Education and Human Services;
Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Mathematics Education, College of
Education and Human Services

Dr. Papini then reported on the recommendations to establish three degree programs in the College of Education and Human Services at Springfield: the Bachelor of Arts in Secondary English Education; the Bachelor of Arts in Secondary History Education; and the Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Mathematics Education. He explained that currently, students pursuing a career in teaching high school English, history, or mathematics would major in these disciplines and obtain a minor in secondary education in order to obtain Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) licensure. He said feedback from ISBE, secondary schools in Illinois, and other stakeholders indicated a preference for secondary

teachers with an education degree. Dr. Papini described the proposed degree programs and said they will be offered in a primarily online format. He told the committee that the proposed degree programs will address the high demand for teachers in Illinois schools and said that upon graduation, students will be fully licensed to teach high school English, history, or mathematics in the state. He said no additional funding is requested for the proposed program.

There were no objections to the agenda items listed above going forward to the full Board for voting. Mr. Estrada commented that all proposed changes seem relevant, and he remarked on the essential skills potentially obtained through the proposed healthcare informatics degree. He also referred to the proposed MPP program and the advantage of being in Springfield. Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Whitney to comment on the proposed programs at Springfield, and Dr. Whitney referred to the hard work undertaken by Dr. Papini, the deans, department chairs, and faculty over the last 18 to 24 months. She said these recommendations are the result of the university's program review and that they reflect a critical moment of analysis regarding the university's role and identity. She said the university is asked to serve many communities and intends to provide the highest quality education in a relevant way.

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 May 19, 2021, at 2:45 p.m., at a location to be determined.

MEETING ADJOURNED

On motion of Ms. Jakobsson, seconded by Mr. Estrada, the meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m. by the following roll call vote: Aye, Ms. Craig Schilling, Mr. Dale, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Estrada, Ms. Jakobsson, Mr. Mirza, Mr. Verthein; No, none; Absent, Ms. Bravo.

Respectfully submitted,

GREGORY J. KNOTT
Secretary

DONALD J. EDWARDS
Chair

EILEEN B. CABLE
Special Assistant to the Secretary