

MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

MAY 19, 2021

This meeting of the University Healthcare System Committee was held via teleconference<sup>1</sup> on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Trustee Stuart C. King, chair of the committee, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the secretary to call the roll. The following committee members were present: Ms. Tami Craig Schilling; Mr. Ricardo Estrada;<sup>2</sup> Dr. Stuart C. King; Ms. Sarah Phalen; Mr. Ali Mirza, student trustee, Urbana. Mr. Ramón Cepeda was absent. Mr. Donald J. Edwards, chair of the Board; Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes; Ms. Naomi D. Jakobsson; and Ms. Jocelyn Bravo, student trustee, Chicago, 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. 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); Mr. Thomas R.

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<sup>1</sup> Per Governor J. B. Pritzker's Executive Order 2021-09.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Estrada arrived at 12:32 p.m.

Bearrows, University counsel; Ms. Adrienne Nazon, interim vice president of external relations and communications; Ms. Kirsten Ruby, interim 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.

Dr. King welcomed everyone to the meeting, and the secretary introduced others in attendance.

#### MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 12:31 p.m., Dr. King stated: “A motion is now in order to hold an executive session to consider the discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act; and pending, probable, or imminent litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the University.”

On motion of Ms. Craig Schilling, seconded by Mr. Mirza, this motion was approved by the following roll call vote:<sup>3</sup> Aye, Ms. Craig Schilling, Dr. King, Ms. Phalen, Mr. Mirza; No, none; Absent, Mr. Cepeda, Mr. Estrada.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. King convened this executive session at 12:32 p.m. All committee members except Mr. Cepeda were present.<sup>4</sup> Mr. Edwards, Ms. Holmes, Ms. Jakobsson, and Ms. Bravo

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<sup>3</sup> Per 5 ILCS 120/7(e), all votes are conducted by roll call.

attended as guests. The following were also in attendance: Mr. Lester H. McKeever Jr., treasurer; President Timothy L. Killeen; Dr. Barbara J. Wilson, executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs; Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows, University counsel; Ms. Adrienne Nazon, interim vice president of external relations and communications; Ms. Kirsten Ruby, interim director for University relations; and Mr. Gregory J. Knott, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University.

### **Discussion of Minutes of Meetings Lawfully Closed Under the Open Meetings Act**

Dr. King asked Mr. Knott and Mr. Bearrows to discuss the minutes that had been sequestered under the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Knott outlined the requirement within the Open Meetings Act for public bodies to review minutes, at least twice annually, for purposes of the public interest and in the interest of individual privacy, and to consider whether a need for these materials to be held from release still exists. Mr. Bearrows stated that he and Mr. Knott met to review minutes that are sequestered under the Open Meetings Act, and he briefly described the process to determine whether the need for confidentiality continues. He stated that sequestered minutes from this committee are related to employee matters and litigation, and he described the guidelines for their potential release. Mr. Bearrows stated that the only sequestered minutes recommended for release at this time relate to the discussion of sequestered minutes from November 11, 2020. No members of the committee disagreed with this recommendation.

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<sup>4</sup> Mr. Estrada arrived at 12:32 p.m.

**Material redacted pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2.06d)****EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNED**

With no other comments or questions, the executive session adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING RESUMED**

The meeting resumed at 12:44 p.m., with all committee members recorded as being present at the start of the meeting in attendance.

Dr. King requested a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held March 10, 2021. On motion of Ms. Phalen, seconded by Mr. Mirza, the minutes were approved by the following roll call vote: Aye, Ms. Craig Schilling, Mr. Estrada, Dr. King, Mr. Mirza, Ms. Phalen; No, none; Absent, Mr. Cepeda.

**AGENDA**

Dr. King stated that there was one agenda item requiring action by the committee, and Mr. Knott read aloud the title of the item, "Disclose Certain Minutes of Executive Sessions Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act." The committee agreed that one roll call vote would be taken and considered the vote on the agenda item as listed below.

**Disclose Certain Minutes of Executive Sessions Pursuant to Open Meetings Act**

- (1) Under the Open Meetings Act passed by the General Assembly, public bodies subject to the Act that conduct business under exceptions specified in the Act

must, at least every six months, determine whether the need for confidentiality still exists with respect to each item considered under such exception. Pursuant to the Act, “[m]inutes of meetings closed to the public shall be available only after the public body determines that it is no longer necessary to protect the public interest or the privacy of an individual by keeping them confidential....” [5 ILCS 120/2.06(f)].

An item from July 2014 through January 2021 that has been heretofore unreleased is recommended for release at this time.

The University counsel and the secretary of the Board, having consulted with appropriate University officers, recommends that the following matter considered in executive session for the time period above be made available to the public at this time.

The committee action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The president of the University concurs.

## **Executive Session Minutes Released to Public**

### **November 11, 2020, University Healthcare System Committee**

Dr. King convened this executive session at 1:50 p.m. All committee members were present except Mr. Cepeda and Ms. Smart. Mr. Donald J. Edwards, chair of the Board, was in attendance. The following trustees attended as guests: Ms. Naomi D. Jakobsson; and Mr. Austin Verthein, student trustee, Springfield. Also present were President

Timothy L. Killeen; Dr. Barbara J. Wilson, executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs; Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows, University counsel; Dr. Robert A. Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago; and Mr. Gregory J. Knott, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University.

### **Discussion of Minutes of Meetings Lawfully Closed Under the Open Meetings Act**

Dr. King asked Mr. Knott to discuss the recommendation regarding the disclosure of minutes of executive sessions of the University Healthcare System Committee held July 2014 through March 2020. Mr. Knott outlined the requirement within the Open Meetings Act for public bodies to review minutes, at least twice annually, for purposes of protection of public interest and in the interest of protection of any individual, and to consider whether a need for these materials to be held from release continues. He stated that he has undertaken this review in conjunction with Mr. Bearrows and recommends the release of minutes from November 13, 2019, which state the discussion of review at that time. Mr. Bearrows commented briefly on considerations used in performing the review and the types of topics discussed during executive sessions of this committee. No other minutes were proposed for release at this time.

On motion of Ms. Craig Schilling, seconded by Mr. Estrada, the minutes were approved by the following roll call vote: Aye, Ms. Craig Schilling, Mr. Estrada, Dr. King, Mr. Mirza, Ms. Phalen; No, none; Absent, Mr. Cepeda.

## OPENING REMARKS

At 12:45 p.m., Dr. King asked Dr. Robert A. Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago, to make some opening remarks. Dr. Barish stated it had been over one year since the first COVID-19 patient was admitted to the hospital. He referred to the continuing efforts of the academic health enterprise to address health inequities, including the distribution of 130,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Dr. Barish described efforts to expand access to vaccines and said they were able to bring vaccines to the hardest hit areas on the South and West sides of Chicago. He referred to an initiative to ensure equitable distribution to those without access to the internet.

Dr. Barish then gave an update on the launch of the University Village primary specialty care clinic, located on Maxwell Street, which he said demonstrates collaboration among disciplines and a patient-centered approach to health care delivery. He said construction is underway for both the welcome atrium and the Outpatient Surgery Center, and recognized the Pasquinelli family, whose generous gift is helping fund the facility.

Dr. Barish stated that despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, UI Health has continued to be a beacon of hope in the community, and he referred to a new LED UI Health sign. He told the committee that many have said the illuminated sign exemplifies the light that UI Health shines on the community. Dr. Barish concluded his remarks by referencing the focus on strategic goals to enable the resilience and health for

patients and neighbors now and into the future. Dr. King thanked Dr. Barish for the comments and asked him to convey his appreciation to the Pasquinellis and to Dr. Enrico Benedetti, professor, department head, and Warren H. Cole Chair in Surgery, University of Illinois Chicago.

REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED BOARD ITEMS  
FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ON MAY 20, 2021

Dr. King introduced the recommended items within the purview of this committee on the Board's agenda for its meeting on May 20, 2021. All recommended items discussed at the meeting are on file with the secretary.

Purchase Recommendations



Dr. King asked Mr. Michael B. Zenn, chief executive officer, University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics, to report on purchase recommendations. Mr. Zenn discussed the recommended purchase of a master service agreement to perform scheduled maintenance and repairs on radiology and imaging medical devices for UI Hospital and Clinics from GE Healthcare/Medical, Inc. He described aspects of the contract and explained this purchase is a sole source procurement because it includes GE's proprietary software used by UI Hospital clinical engineers, and as such, does not have established Business Enterprise Program (BEP) goals. Mr. Zenn noted that GE Healthcare provided its 2020 summary of their diversity spend.

Next, Mr. Zenn discussed the recommendation to purchase electricity distribution for utilities at the University of Illinois Chicago from Commonwealth Edison. He noted this is for the entire university, including the hospital.

Mr. Zenn then reported on the recommendation to purchase professional services of physicians and medical physicists for UI Hospital and Clinics from the University of Chicago Radiation and Cellular Oncology. He explained UI Health does not have employed physicians or residents in the radiation oncology specialty and requires third party staffing to provide services to meet the needs of its patients. Mr. Zenn described the model used for this arrangement, as well as the cost, which he said is offset by net patient revenue for radiation and oncology services.

Next, Mr. Zenn reported on the recommendation to purchase language translation and interpretation services for UI Health patients and said these services allow

patients to speak with their caregivers in their native language. He noted that the provision of these services is required by federal law and is an important part of providing patient care. Mr. Zenn said Language Line Services provides mobile video equipment and told the committee that the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of this service. He reported on anticipated costs and said that these services were expanded due to COVID-19 and increased telehealth visits, noting that the use of telehealth visits are expected to continue to grow.

There was no objection to this item being forwarded to the full Board for voting.

## REPORTS

### Hospital and Clinics Chief Executive Officer Report

At 1:01 p.m., Dr. King asked Mr. Zenn to give the hospital and clinics chief executive officer report (materials on file with the secretary). Mr. Zenn first gave an update on COVID-19 vaccinations as of May 3, 2021, and noted that the pace of vaccine distribution has recently slowed. He referred to the Protect Chicago Plus initiative, and Dr. Susan Bleasdale, chief quality officer, University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics, commented on efforts to reach and distribute the vaccine throughout Chicago's underserved communities. Mr. Zenn then gave a COVID-19 update and said the hospital is currently treating about 20 patients with the virus. He also discussed the COVID-19

saliva testing program at the University of Illinois Chicago and gave a brief overview of its history and number of tests administered.

Mr. Zenn then reported on financial performance and presented highlights from Fiscal Year 2021. He referred to the Fiscal Year 2020 full year operating loss; the 8-month year-to-date operating loss; and 8-month year-to-date net income. He commented briefly on the impact of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding and presented decreases in year-over-year activity. Mr. Zenn said that there is a continued focus on strengthening the balance sheet, and he told the committee that inpatient medical and surgical occupancy is at 95 percent for February through March. He said that aspects of recovery after the pandemic are evident. Mr. Zenn then reported on net patient revenue, unrestricted days of cash on hand, and unrestricted and internally restricted cash and investments. He discussed key comparison ratios for health system bond ratings and emphasized the importance of cash in gaining flexibility for the future. Dr. King, Mr. Zenn, and Dr. Bleasdale discussed the decrease in deliveries, and Dr. Bleasdale stated that there is a national decline in the birth rate, likely a result of impacts from COVID-19.

At 1:23 p.m., Dr. Bleasdale began the report on quality and safety and reviewed the Fiscal Year 2021 areas of focus. She reported on the rate of post-operative pulmonary emboli (PE) and deep venous thromboses (DVT) through the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2021 and remarked on the impact of COVID-19 cases, noting that a decrease is expected in the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2021. She presented recent venous

thromboembolism (VTE) data and discussed improvements in Fiscal Year 2019. Dr. Bleasdale said a decrease in surgeries in Fiscal Year 2020 caused the rate of hospital-acquired post-operative VTE to increase, and she referred to improvements in recent data regarding rates of VTE. She described patient types most susceptible to VTE and reported on VTE prevention initiatives.

Dr. Bleasdale then presented information on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) stars and Leapfrog reporting periods and explained that the data is delayed and from the 2018-2019 reporting periods. She stated that the hospital's Leapfrog score decreased from a C to a D, and she reviewed the factors contributing to the score, as well as interventions and actions that have been implemented since those performance periods. Dr. Bleasdale stated that the hospital's current performance will not impact Leapfrog scores until 2022-2023, and she discussed the significant efforts to implement processes and structural measures that will be reflected in scores in fall 2021.

Mr. Zenn commented on the relationship between medical staff, faculty, residents, and nursing staff and referred to an understanding between medical staff leadership, the College of Medicine, and the medical service plan of the role of various measures that will affect hospital ratings and the importance of success in in these areas. He also referred to the contract with the Illinois Nurses Association (INA), which he said includes incentives for meeting indicators that are tied to quality and patient safety measures.

Mr. Estrada thanked Mr. Zenn and Dr. Bleasdale for the report and asked if the hospital's nurses are the highest paid in the region. Mr. Zenn said they were the highest paid in September 2020, and that he would need to verify if this is still true. He stated that they are among the highest paid in the region and country. Mr. Estrada asked why other hospitals earn higher ratings and what could be learned from those hospitals. Mr. Zenn referred to discussions with Rush University Medical Center in 2019 that led to many of the interventions listed in Dr. Bleasdale's report. Dr. Bleasdale commented on the impact of COVID-19 and noted that some initiatives, such as the implementation of Epic, had not been implemented during the time period that the ratings reflect. She said she anticipates the hospital receiving a C rating in the fall and a B within the next two years. Mr. Estrada thanked them for this information, and he also thanked Dr. Bleasdale for efforts to address vaccine hesitancy.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was no business presented under this aegis.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Dr. King asked if there was any old business to discuss. He announced that the next meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2021, at 12:30 p.m., at a location to be determined.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

Dr. King asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Estrada, seconded by Ms. Craig Schilling, the meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m. by the following roll call vote: Aye, Ms. Craig Schilling, Mr. Estrada, Dr. King, Ms. Phalen, Mr. Mirza; No, none; Absent, Mr. Cepeda.

Respectfully submitted,

GREGORY J. KNOTT  
*Secretary*

STUART C. KING, MD, MBA  
*Chair*

EILEEN B. CABLE  
*Special Assistant to the Secretary*