

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
NOVEMBER 17, 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, November 17, 2021, beginning at 2:44 p.m.

Trustee Donald J. Edwards, chair of the committee, stated that he, as chair of the Board of Trustees, determined that an in-person meeting would not be practical or prudent due to COVID-19 and that under Section 7(e)(2) of the Open Meetings Act, this meeting would be held virtually. He 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. Austin Verthein, voting student trustee, Springfield; Ms. Mariama Mwilambwe, student trustee, Urbana; and Mr. Lavleen Mal, student trustee, Chicago. Dr. Stuart C. King attended the meeting as a guest.

Also present were President Timothy L. Killeen; Dr. Avijit Ghosh, interim 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,

¹ Per Governor J. B. Pritzker's Executive Order 2021-27 and 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(2).

University of Illinois Springfield, and vice president, University of Illinois System; Dr. Paul N. Ellinger, interim comptroller (and vice president/chief financial officer); Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows, University counsel; Dr. Joseph T. Walsh Jr., interim vice president for economic development and innovation; Ms. Adrienne Nazon, vice president of external relations and communications; 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 September 22, 2021, and there were none. On motion of Ms. Jakobsson, seconded by Ms. Craig Schilling, the minutes were approved by the following roll call vote:² Aye, Ms. Craig Schilling, Mr. Dale, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Estrada, Ms. Jakobsson, Ms. Mwilambwe, Mr. Verthein; No, none; Absent, Mr. Mal.

REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED BOARD ITEMS
FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ON NOVEMBER 18, 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 November 18, 2021, and asked certain individuals to comment on them. The recommended Board items discussed at the meeting are on file with the secretary.

² 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. 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 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.

Appoint Interim Dean, College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences, Urbana

Next, Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Andreas C. Cangellaris, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Urbana, to report on the recommendation to appoint Dr. German A. Bollero, presently professor of crop sciences and associate dean for research in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, as interim dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Cangellaris described Dr. Bollero's background and experience and said he will succeed Dr. Kimberlee K. Kidwell, who served as dean until accepting a position as associate chancellor for strategic partnerships and initiatives in the Office of the Chancellor in September 2021.

Establish the Bachelor of Science in Neural Engineering,
The Grainger College of Engineering, Urbana

Dr. Cangellaris then provided information on the recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Science in neural engineering, stating that neural engineering is a large and rapidly growing discipline in which engineering principles are applied to the design of technologies to repair and enhance the function of the nervous system. He described the goals of the program and the attributes that distinguish it from similar degrees offered elsewhere. Dr. Cangellaris provided information on the course of study and said that graduates will be well positioned to pursue professional degree programs in medicine and graduate studies in life and behavioral sciences, as well as engineering disciplines, and will also be prepared to enter industry as engineers and innovators. He referred to the need for additional faculty and said that neural engineering has been identified as an area for strategic growth for The Grainger College of Engineering. He said the college is able to commit to growing expertise in this area.

Establish the Certificate of Advanced Study in Schools Specialization,
School of Social Work and the Graduate College, Urbana

Dr. Cangellaris then discussed the recommendation to establish the Certificate of Advanced Study in Schools Specialization. He said there is a great need for school social workers in Illinois, and that the school social worker endorsement is required to be eligible to be a school social worker in the state. Dr. Cangellaris said the School of Social Work offers the courses that would enable students to obtain this endorsement but that offering them as a certificate makes it possible for students to take advantage of financial aid. He added that no additional funds are needed to support the establishment of this program.

Reorganize the Department of Art,
College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts, Chicago

Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Amiridis to report on the recommendation to reorganize the Department of Art in the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts. Dr. Amiridis stated that this would reorganize the Department of Art from its current structure of a department organized with a head to a department organized with a chair. He referred to University *Statutes* and the differences in governance between the two structures and said there is faculty support for this proposed change.

Eliminate the College of Education and Human Services,
College of Education and Human Services, Springfield

Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Dennis Papini, vice chancellor of academic affairs and provost, Springfield, to provide information on the recommendation to eliminate the College of Education and Human Services at Springfield. Dr. Papini said this proposed change is part of the university-wide academic reorganization initiative, and he listed the departments housed in the College of Education and Human Services that will be joining other colleges. He discussed the rationale for these changes and said the majority of faculty support this restructuring.

There was no objection to the items listed above being forwarded to the Board for approval.

PRESENTATION

Academic Approval Process

Next, Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Ghosh to give a presentation on the academic program approval process (materials on file with the secretary). Dr. Ghosh indicated that this is a lengthy and involved process involving evaluations by the universities, Board of Trustees, Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), and Higher Learning Commission (HLC). He outlined the 10 sequential steps needed for program changes and gave an overview of the time line. Dr. Ghosh referred to the expansion of the IBHE program approval process and discussed a new process by the HLC to review all new degree programs. He emphasized the rigor applied to this process at the department, college, senate, and university level, prior to reaching the Board for approval.

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 January 19, 2022, at 2:45 p.m., in Chicago.³

MEETING ADJOURNED

³ The January 19, 2022, meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On motion of Ms. Jakobsson, seconded by Mr. Estrada, the meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m. by the following roll call vote: Aye, Ms. Craig Schilling, Mr. Dale, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Estrada, Ms. Jakobsson, Mr. Mal, Ms. Mwilambwe, Mr. Verthein; No, none.

Respectfully submitted,

GREGORY J. KNOTT
Secretary

DONALD J. EDWARDS
Chair

EILEEN B. CABLE
Special Assistant to the Secretary