

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
SEPTEMBER 22, 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, September 22, 2021, beginning at 2:55 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. 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. Mr. Kareem Dale was absent. Ms. Sarah C. Phalen attended the meeting as a guest.

Also present were President Timothy L. Killeen; Mr. Lester H. McKeever Jr., treasurer; 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

¹ Per Governor J. B. Pritzker's Executive Order 2021-19 and 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(2).

System; Dr. Karen M. Whitney, interim chancellor, 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 July 21, 2021, and there were none. On motion of Ms. Jakobsson, seconded by Mr. Estrada, the minutes were approved by the following roll call vote:² Aye, Ms. Craig Schilling, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Estrada, Ms. Jakobsson, Mr. Mal, Ms. Mwilambwe, Mr. Verthein; No, none; Absent, Mr. Dale.

REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED BOARD ITEMS
FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ON SEPTEMBER 23, 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 September 23, 2021, and

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

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 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 Dean, College of Liberal Arts and 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. Venetria K. Patton as the Harry E. Preble Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Urbana. Dr. Cangellaris described Dr. Patton's background and experience and said she will succeed Dr. Gene E. Robinson, who served as interim dean since August 2020.

Extend Term, Dean, College of Fine and Applied Arts, Urbana

Dr. Cangellaris then provided information on the recommendation to extend the term of the dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts at Urbana through August 15, 2023. He said that Mr. Kevin Hamilton has excelled in this role, particularly during the COVID-19

pandemic. Dr. Cangellaris referred to Mr. Hamilton's seasoned experience and leadership and said this recommendation would extend his term by two years. He said a national search will be conducted to appoint a permanent dean of the college.

Appoint Dean, College of Nursing, Chicago

Mr. Edwards then asked Dr. Robert A. Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago, to discuss the recommendation to appoint Dr. Eileen Collins, presently professor of biobehavioral nursing science and associate dean for research, College of Nursing, as dean of the College of Nursing. Dr. Barish said that Dr. Collins will succeed Dr. Terri Weaver, who retired on August 31, 2021. He described Dr. Collins's background and experience and highlighted her extensive research portfolio and funding.

Amend the University of Illinois Springfield Senate *Constitution*, Springfield

Lastly, Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Whitney to discuss the recommendation to amend the University of Illinois Springfield Senate *Constitution*. Dr. Whitney explained that an audit revealed that certain changes that were approved by the Springfield Senate were never brought to the Board for approval. Mr. Edwards noted that a summary of the proposed changes was distributed to members of the committee and Board.

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

Mr. Edwards asked President Killeen if he would like to make any comments. President Killeen expressed excitement regarding the recommendations to appoint new deans to various colleges throughout the University. He noted that the College of Nursing was well lead by Dr. Weaver and said that while a national search was conducted for her replacement, Dr. Collins emerged as the best candidate for the position. President Killeen highlighted Mr. Hamilton's leadership of the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the many challenges that were faced by that college due to COVID-19. He said Mr. Hamilton was able to sustain morale and keep the programs moving forward. President Killeen said that the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the largest college at Urbana and that a competitive national search led to the recommended appointment of Dr. Patton. He said her reputation and scholarship is a testament to the University's standing. President Killeen emphasized the important role of dean, stating it is the heart and soul of the academic enterprise.

Dr. Jones echoed President Killeen's remarks regarding Dr. Patton and said she is an amazing leader. He thanked Dr. Cangellaris for the time he spent on this search. Dr. Amiridis commented on the caliber of the College of Nursing and its faculty, as well as the outstanding leadership by Dr. Weaver.

Dr. Ghosh highlighted the COVID-19 vaccination rates of students, faculty, and staff, and Mr. Edwards expressed appreciation for the response from the University community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Brief discussion followed regarding the importance of faculty recruitment and the *Wall Street Journal* rankings, in which the

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign placed sixth. Dr. Amiridis said the University of Illinois Chicago was listed in the top 25 and was named a top 10 best value.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Jakobsson referred to the recent rankings, vaccination rates, and other accolades and said that the University System makes its supporters and alumni proud. She said she is honored to be part of the Board.

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 November 17, 2021, at 2:45 p.m., at a location to be determined.

MEETING ADJOURNED

On motion of Ms. Jakobsson, seconded by Mr. Verthein, the meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m. by the following roll call vote: Aye, Ms. Craig Schilling, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Estrada, Ms. Jakobsson, Mr. Mal, Ms. Mwilambwe, Mr. Verthein; No, none; Absent, Mr. Dale.

Respectfully submitted,

GREGORY J. KNOTT
Secretary

DONALD J. EDWARDS
Chair

EILEEN B. CABLE
Special Assistant to the Secretary