

MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
MAY 18, 2022

This meeting of the University Healthcare System Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois was held via teleconference¹ on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, beginning at 12:37 p.m.

Trustee Stuart C. King, chair of the committee, stated that the 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. Dr. King welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the secretary to call the roll. The following committee members were present: Ms. Tami Craig Schilling, Dr. Stuart C. King, Ms. Sarah C. Phalen, and Mr. Lavleen Mal, student trustee, Chicago. Mr. Ramón Cepeda and Mr. Ricardo Estrada were absent. Mr. Donald J. Edwards; Ms. Naomi D. Jakobsson; and Mr. Austin Verthein, voting student trustee, Springfield, attended the meeting as guests.

Also present were Mr. Lester H. McKeever Jr., treasurer; 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-

¹ Per Governor J. B. Pritzker's April 29, 2022, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation and 5 ILCS 120/7(e).

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. Paul N. Ellinger, interim comptroller (and vice president/chief financial officer); Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows, University counsel; Dr. Joseph T. Walsh Jr., 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.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 12:38 p.m., Dr. King stated: “A motion is now in order to hold an executive session to consider pending, probable, or imminent litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the University; and discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act.” Mr. Knott stated that each public body subject to the Open Meetings Act shall, at least every six months or soon after thereafter as is practicable, meet to review the minutes of all closed meetings, and the committee will be discussing this review during the executive session today.

On motion of Ms. Craig Schilling, seconded by Dr. King, the motion was approved by the following roll call vote:² Aye, Ms. Craig Schilling, Dr. King, Mr. Mal, Ms. Phalen; No, None; Absent, Mr. Cepeda, Mr. Estrada.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

REGULAR MEETING RESUMED

The meeting resumed at 12:51 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 16, 2022. On motion of Ms. Craig Schilling, seconded by Dr. King, the minutes were approved by the following roll call vote: Aye, Ms. Craig Schilling, Dr. King, Mr. Mal, Ms. Phalen; No, none; Absent, Mr. Cepeda, Mr. Estrada.

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 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

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

(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 November 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 17, 2021, University Healthcare System Committee

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

At 12:45 p.m., 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 reviewed the 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 May 19, 2021. No members of the committee disagreed with this recommendation.

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

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. King asked Dr. Robert A. Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago, to make some opening remarks. Dr. Barish referred to momentum across UI Health and focused his comments on the support UI Health has received from Dr. Amiridis throughout his tenure. He said it is the last University Healthcare System Committee meeting that Dr. Amiridis will attend as chancellor, and he remarked on his support and encouragement. He expressed gratitude for Dr. Amiridis's leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and credited him with the decision to utilize the Credit Union 1 Arena as a mass vaccination site. Dr. Barish recognized Dr. Amiridis for his impactful tenure as chancellor at the University of Illinois Chicago, and Dr. Amiridis thanked him for his comments.

REPORTS

Hospital and Clinics Chief Executive Officer Report

At 12:58 p.m., Dr. King asked Mr. Zenn and Ms. Linda Howard, interim chief compliance officer, University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics, to give the hospital and clinics chief executive officer report (materials on file with the secretary). Mr. Zenn echoed Dr. Barish's comments about Dr. Amiridis. Mr. Zenn then gave an update on the construction of the Welcome Atrium and the Outpatient Surgery Center and Specialty Clinics Building (SCB), and he showed the activation project time line for the SCB, with an opening scheduled for September 2022. He described the process to ensure the building, operations processes, and people are ready for opening.

Mr. Zenn then reported briefly on the Comprehensive Stroke Center and its recertification on April 1, 2022, highlighting the importance of this certification. He said UI Health is accredited by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers as a Level 4 epilepsy center, which requires that facilities provide the highest level medical and surgical evaluation and treatment for patients with complex epilepsy.

Next, Dr. Susan Bleasdale, chief quality officer, University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics, gave a report on quality and safety and discussed a project-based approach to quality performance assessment. She stated that external consultants were engaged earlier this year and performed a high-level assessment and analysis, comprising phase one of the endeavor. She indicated that phase two involved a deeper, more comprehensive assessment, and that phase three, which is the current stage of the project, includes implementation and project management support. She showed a time line and said that this initiative will help achieve the best outcomes for patients.

Mr. Zenn then gave a brief overview of Fiscal Year 2022 financial results and presented highlights through February 2022. He discussed the continued focus on strengthening the balance sheet and emphasized its importance. He reported on the low use of agency staff at the hospital and showed an increase in days of cash on hand. Mr. Zenn concluded his remarks by discussing health system bond rating medians for A-rated hospitals and said Moody's upgraded the hospital's bond rating to A3. He then introduced Ms. Howard and described her background and experience.

Ms. Howard gave a report on compliance at UI Health, beginning with an overview of the compliance program, program progress, and risk management. She referred to the Department of Justice emphasis on adequacy of compliance resources and said that the Department of Justice updated compliance guidance, making it applicable to health-care boards. Dr. King thanked Mr. Zenn, Dr. Bleasdale, and Ms. Howard for the presentation.

Chief Medical Officer Report

At 1:31 p.m., Dr. King asked Dr. Terry Vanden Hoek, chief medical officer, University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics, to give the chief medical officer report (materials on file with the secretary). Dr. Vanden Hoek discussed medical staff engagement and summarized the results of the engagement survey. He reported on the positive effects of MyChart use by patients, including increased patient engagement with their medical care. Dr. Vanden Hoek gave examples and described the benefits of interprofessional teamwork and said that the same interprofessional teamwork that was utilized in response to COVID-19 is needed to address critical opportunities. He described the work of Ms. Sheila Cook, chief experience officer, to enhance empathetic communication between providers and patients. Dr. Vanden Hoek commented briefly on initiatives to enable providers to be “home without homework” and discussed the impact of the successful reduction of interruptive pop-ups. He also reported on the advantages of the Epic Secure

Chat feature, which enables providers to text patient information in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Brief discussion followed regarding challenges and barriers following the COVID-19 surge, and Dr. Vanden Hoek indicated the hospital remains busy. Mr. Zenn announced to the committee that Dr. Vanden Hoek will be stepping down as chief medical officer on June 15, 2022, to focus on his other responsibilities. He listed Dr. Vanden Hoek's many achievements and accomplishments, and he and Dr. King thanked Dr. Vanden Hoek for serving in this role. Dr. Barish added that Dr. Vanden Hoek was named a top physician in Chicago and is a leading researcher worldwide. He thanked him and said he has been a great colleague and friend. Dr. Vanden Hoek expressed appreciation for the remarks.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no business presented under this aegis.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. King asked if there was any new business to discuss, and there was none. He announced that the next meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2022, at 12:30 p.m., at Urbana.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Dr. King asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Ms. Craig Schilling, seconded by Ms. Phalen, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m. by the following roll call vote: Aye, Ms. Craig Schilling, Dr. King, Mr. Mal, Ms. Phalen; No, none; Absent, Mr. Cepeda, Mr. Estrada.

Respectfully submitted,

GREGORY J. KNOTT
Secretary

STUART C. KING, MD, MBA
Chair

EILEEN B. CABLE
Special Assistant to the Secretary