

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
JANUARY 25, 2023

This meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois was held in the Isadore and Sadie Dorin Forum, Rooms D, E, and F, 725 West Roosevelt Road, Chicago, Illinois, on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, beginning at 3:38 p.m.

Trustee Tami Craig Schilling, chair of the committee, convened the meeting and asked the secretary to call the roll. The following committee members were present: Mr. Rafael Camacho Jr., voting student trustee, Urbana; Ms. Tami Craig Schilling;¹ Mr. Donald J. Edwards; Mr. Will Formea, student trustee, Springfield; Mr. Joseph Gutman; Mr. Mohammed A. Haq, student trustee, Chicago; and Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes. Mr. Ramón Cepeda² and Ms. Sarah C. Phalen attended as guests.

Also present were Mr. Lester H. McKeever Jr., treasurer;³ President Timothy L. Killeen; Dr. Nicholas P. Jones, 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. Javier Reyes, interim chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and vice president, University of Illinois

¹ Ms. Craig Schilling attended via remote videoconference.

² Mr. Cepeda left the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

³ Mr. McKeever attended the meeting via remote videoconference.

System; Dr. Janet L. Gooch, chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and vice president, University of Illinois System; Dr. Paul N. Ellinger, comptroller (and vice president/chief financial officer); Dr. Joseph T. Walsh Jr., vice president for economic development and innovation; Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows, University counsel; Ms. Adrienne Nazon, vice president of external relations and communications; Mr. Gregory J. Knott, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University; and Dr. Jeffrey A. Stein, secretary-designate of the Board of Trustees and of the University. Attached is a listing of others in attendance at this meeting.

Ms. Craig Schilling welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes from the committee meeting held November 16, 2022. There were none. On motion of Mr. Haq, seconded by Mr. Camacho, the minutes were approved. There were no “nay” votes.

REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED BOARD ITEMS
FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ON JANUARY 26, 2023

Ms. Craig Schilling introduced the recommended items within the purview of this committee that are scheduled for the Board’s agenda at its meeting on January 26, 2023, 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

Ms. Craig Schilling 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.

Approve Tuition Rates, Academic Year 2023-2024;
Approve Student Fees for Urbana, Chicago, and Springfield, Academic Year 2023-2024;
Approve Rate Changes for University-Operated Housing Facilities, Urbana, Chicago, and
Springfield, Academic Year 2023-2024

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Nicholas Jones to discuss the recommendation to approve tuition rates; student fees for Urbana, Chicago, and Springfield; and room and board rates for Urbana, Chicago, and Springfield, for Academic Year 2023-2024. Dr. Jones began his presentation (materials on file with the secretary) by stating that the process of setting tuition and fees is based on extensive discussion. He said the recommendation reflects the University's commitment to access and affordability while also ensuring excellence. He referred to the in-state undergraduate enrollment and the increase in Illinois resident undergraduate enrollment since 2014 and said it demonstrates the University's commitment to Illinois students. He presented charts demonstrating that the System enrolls more in-state students than its peers. Dr. Jones reported on affordability, reminding the committee that the University froze tuition in six out of the last eight years,

and showed that annual base tuition increased only 3.65 percent over 10 years. He said that the University simultaneously increased System-level aid, which nearly doubled over the last decade. Dr. Jones then compared tuition and fees at each university to their peer institutions and said the University's improvement is significant, moving more toward the middle each year. He noted that the University also guarantees the same tuition rate for incoming freshman for four years.

Dr. Jones reiterated the goal of protecting access, affordability, and academic quality and competitiveness and discussed additional considerations for determining the proposed tuition rate, including the current high rate of inflation. He said the proposed rate includes a 1.9 percent increase at Urbana and Chicago and no increase at Springfield. He then presented the proposed tuition rate for non-resident undergraduate students, graduate programs, professional programs, and online programs.

Next, Dr. Jones discussed student fees and assessments, as well as room and board rates. He commented on the process for setting student fees, which he said are vetted by students. He showed that the recommended student fees and assessments include a 1.60 percent increase at Urbana, a 2.46 percent increase at Chicago, and a 7.1 percent increase at Springfield. Dr. Jones noted that there is a growing backlog of deferred maintenance at Springfield and no proposed tuition increase at that university.

Dr. Jones then presented the proposed room and board rates for undergraduate housing at each university, with a 5.0 percent increase at Urbana, a 5.0 percent increase at Chicago, and a 2.3 percent increase at Springfield. He said these are comparable to those at peer institutions.

Discussion followed, and Mr. Haq highlighted the proposed fee increase, stating that this impacts all students, despite the four-year guaranteed tuition rate. Ms. Craig Schilling expressed appreciation for keeping the tuition and fee increases low, and President Killeen remarked on cost containment and growth in enrollment, particularly among underrepresented minority students. He said the University has an enviable record.

Indefinitely Extend the Revision to the Policy Requiring
Standardized Tests for International and Non-Illinois Freshman and
Transfer Admission to Undergraduate Programs

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Nicholas Jones to report on the recommendation to indefinitely extend the revision to the policy requiring standardized tests for international and non-Illinois freshman and transfer admission to undergraduate programs. Dr. Jones explained that on June 10, 2020, the Executive Committee of the Board approved a revision to the University policy requiring standardized tests and allowed a test-optional process for one year, which was extended for another year in April 2021. He said that in July 2021, the Illinois General Assembly mandated that all state universities may not require applicants who are Illinois residents to submit standardized test scores as part of the admissions process. He told the committee that this mandate did not include international and out-of-state applicants, and he said that this recommendation would indefinitely extend the test-optional policy for all first-year and transfer applicants, including international and out-of-state applicants. Dr. Jones said this would simplify the

admissions process, and he stated that current findings show that a test optional approach has no negative impact on the quality of students admitted to universities.

Discussion followed, and Dr. Jones and Dr. William T. Bernhard, interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Urbana, told the committee that approximately half of all applicants currently submit scores from standardized tests. They also reported that most peer institutions are now utilizing a test-optional admissions process. Trustees inquired about adjustments to the admissions process, and Dr. Nicholas Jones stated that a holistic approach has been used for some time, with the grade point average carrying greater weight. Dr. Robert Jones agreed and said that while standardized tests are one component of admissions, grade-point average is a greater indicator of success. Mr. Edwards stated that he would like to have a discussion about student performance, cheating, and the use of some artificial intelligence programs. President Killeen commented on the College Board's offering of Advanced Placement courses and the possibility of increasing access to these courses in the future, noting that successful completion of Advanced Placement courses is an indicator of college success. Additional discussion followed regarding the impact of a test-optional admissions process, and trustees expressed interest in learning more about admissions and how the process has evolved over time. Ms. Craig Schilling stated that this, along with the impact of technology and artificial intelligence on student performance, would be discussed at a future meeting.

Appoint Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, Springfield

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. Gooch to provide information on the recommendation to appoint Dr. Linda M. Delene as interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost at Springfield. Dr. Gooch stated that Dr. Delene will be appointed pursuant to an agreement between the university and The Registry for College and University Presidents through June 30, 2023. She said a national search will be conducted to identify a permanent successor following the resignation of Dr. Dennis R. Papini. Dr. Gooch reported on Dr. Delene's background, qualifications, and experience.

Award Honorary Degree, Springfield

Dr. Gooch then discussed the recommendation to award the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters to Mr. Raymond Schroeder, former senior fellow for online learning, Springfield, who retired in August 2022. She described Mr. Schroeder's background and listed some of his many contributions to online learning.

Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies, College of Public Affairs and Education, Springfield

Dr. Gooch reported on the recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies in the College of Public Affairs and Education, Springfield. She said no new funding would be required for the degree, and she said the proposed degree is a 120-hour non-licensure education program designed for students who seek to work with children and youth in educational settings outside of the traditional K-12 public school classroom. She provided additional information about the degree and said it will serve students who are enrolled in a licensure education program and want to switch to a non-

licensure degree, as well as students who elect to start a degree on a non-licensure track. Ms. Craig Schilling inquired about the rationale for establishing the degree and anticipated demand. Dr. Gooch explained that some students pursue education degrees that include licensure and realize in the course of their studies that teaching is not a good fit. She said changing to a degree in another field can be time consuming and this would provide students with a non-licensure option. Dr. Gooch said that demand for this is strong.

Appoint Interim Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, Urbana

Next, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Bernhard to discuss the recommendation to appoint Dr. Christopher John Prom, presently professor, University Library, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, as interim Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries and University Librarian. Dr. Bernhard stated that this recommendation is being made in consultation with senior academic leaders and members of the University Library executive committee. He said Dr. Prom will succeed Mr. John P. Wilkin, who retired from the university. Dr. Bernhard told the committee that the process of hiring a permanent dean is underway.

Rename the Department of Geology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

Dr. Bernhard then reported on the recommendation to rename the Department of Geology as the Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change. He described the rationale for the change, telling the committee that a more up-to-date name that aligns

with current work in the discipline and is more widely recognized by prospective students, graduate programs, and employers is needed. He said peer institutions no longer use the name “geology,” noting that the term is unfamiliar or has limited meaning with undergraduate students.

Award Honorary Degree, Urbana

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Robert Jones to provide information on the recommendation to award the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering to Ms. Gwynne Shotwell, president and chief operating officer of SpaceX. Dr. Jones stated that Ms. Shotwell is being nominated for an honorary degree for her leadership in space exploration and her significant contributions in aerospace engineering. He referred to her achievements and accomplishments and said the Urbana-Champaign Senate approved this proposal. Mr. Gutman asked if Ms. Shotwell is affiliated with the university, and Dr. Jones stated that while she is not an alumna, many at the university have worked with her closely. He added that this recognition is well-deserved.

Amend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate *Constitution*, Urbana

Dr. Jones then discussed the recommendation to amend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate *Constitution* and said that the changes would clarify language in the *Constitution* pertaining to the directive to perform a periodic review of the Senate; would add to the *Bylaws* a duty that would ensure the findings made by the commission performing the periodic review are responded to or implemented in a timely manner; and

would modify language to ensure all electorates are included in the membership of the review commissions. Ms. Craig Schilling stated that she appreciates the strive for transparency.

Rename the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Polish, Russian, and Central and Eastern European Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Karen J. Colley, acting provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, Chicago, to report on the recommendation to rename the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, major in Polish, Russian, and Central and European Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago, as the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, major in Central and Eastern European Studies. Dr. Colley described components of the degree and said this renaming simplifies a complicated degree title and makes clearer to students that the major does not require them to focus on all three areas of study currently listed in the name of the major. She said the major will maintain its three formal concentrations, and the degree requirements remain the same.

There were no objections to these items being forwarded to the full Board for approval.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no business presented under this aegis.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Craig Schilling asked if there was any new business to discuss, and there was none. She announced that the next meeting of this committee is scheduled for March 29, 2023, at 3:30 p.m., at Springfield.

MEETING ADJOURNED

On motion of Mr. Haq, seconded by Mr. Camacho, the meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

GREGORY J. KNOTT
Secretary

TAMI CRAIG SCHILLING
Chair

EILEEN B. CABLE
Special Assistant to the Secretary