

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
MARCH 29, 2023

This meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois was held in the Student Union Ballroom, Room 224, 2251 Richard Wright Drive, Springfield, Illinois, on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, beginning at 3:42 p.m.

Trustee Tami Craig Schilling, 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 in a hybrid format, meaning that some committee members would attend virtually and some in person. She convened the meeting and asked the secretary-designate to call the roll. The following committee members were present at the Student Union Ballroom: Mr. Rafael Camacho Jr., voting student trustee, Urbana; Ms. Tami Craig Schilling; Mr. Donald J. Edwards; and Mr. Will Formea, student trustee, Springfield. Mr. Joseph Gutman attended via remote videoconference. Mr. Mohammed A. Haq, student trustee, Chicago, and Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes were absent. Mr. Ramón Cepeda and Ms. Sarah C. Phalen attended as guests at the Student Union Ballroom.

Also present at the Student Union Ballroom were 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. 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; 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. Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows, University counsel, and Mr. Lester H. McKeever Jr., treasurer, attended via remote videoconference. 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 January 25, 2023. There were none. On motion of Mr. Camacho, seconded by Mr. Edwards, the minutes were approved by the following roll call vote:<sup>1</sup> Aye, Mr. Camacho, Ms. Craig Schilling, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Formea, Mr. Gutman; Absent, Mr. Haq, Ms. Holmes.

REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED BOARD ITEMS  
FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ON MARCH 30, 2023

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<sup>1</sup> Per 5 ILCS 120/7(e), all votes are conducted by roll call.

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 March 30, 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 Dr. Stein to comment on the item recommending appointments to the faculty, administrative/professional staff, and intercollegiate athletic staff. Dr. Stein 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 Sabbatical Leaves of Absence, 2023-2024

Next, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Nicholas Jones to report on the recommendation to approve sabbatical leaves of absence for Academic Year 2023-2024. Dr. Jones explained that sabbatical leaves of absence permit tenured faculty to have focused time to conduct research and gain new knowledge in their respective fields. He stated sabbatical leaves of absence are earned and that a detailed plan is required and reviewed. Dr. Jones stated that there are 202 sabbatical requests for Academic Year 2023-2024 and noted that approximately 90 percent of sabbatical leaves are taken after approval. He said that there were 201 sabbatical leaves of absence last year. Ms. Craig Schilling stated that the list of

focus areas is impressive, and Dr. Jones remarked on these important and useful periods of focused research.

Approve Student Health Insurance Rates for  
Urbana, Chicago, Springfield, Academic Year 2023-2024

Dr. Jones then discussed the recommendation to approve student health insurance rates for Academic Year 2023-2024. He said the rates at the University of Illinois Chicago are unchanged from last year and that the proposed rate for all students at the University of Illinois Springfield would increase by approximately 2 percent per semester. Dr. Jones told the committee that the rates at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign would increase by 10 percent after two years without an increase. He stated that the current contract caps the rate increase at 10 percent in the third year and noted that the increase would have been 16 percent without that cap.

Appoint Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, Urbana

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. William T. Bernhard, interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, Urbana, to discuss the recommendation to appoint Ms. Mary Claire Stewart as Juanita J. and Robert E Simpson Dean of libraries and University librarian. Dr. Bernhard described aspects of the appointment and Ms. Stewart's background and experience. He thanked Dr. Christopher Prom, who has served as interim dean of libraries and University librarian since January 2023, following the retirement of Mr. John P. Wilkin.

Appoint Associates to the Center for Advanced Study,  
Academic Year 2023-2024, Urbana; Appoint Fellows to the  
Center for Advanced Study, Academic Year 2023-2024, Urbana

Dr. Bernhard then discussed the recommendations to appoint associates and fellows to the Center for Advanced Study at Urbana. Dr. Bernhard explained that such appointments provide for one semester of release time from teaching for self-initiated scholarly study. He said associates and fellows are selected in an annual competition. Dr. Bernhard reported that tenured faculty are appointed as associates and untenured faculty are appointed as fellows, and he said this year's associates come from 10 different academic departments, with 40 percent women and 25 percent underrepresented faculty. He said this year's fellows come from four different academic departments and that 50 percent are women and 25 percent of them are from underrepresented faculty groups.

Establish the Master of Design in Industrial Design,  
College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College, Urbana

Dr. Bernhard reported on the recommendation to establish the Master of Design in Industrial Design in the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College, Urbana, and said it is a two-year, professional degree designed to replace the two-year route currently available through the Master of Fine Arts in Industrial Design (MFA in ID) program. He described the rationale for the proposed degree and said it would have no impact on funding, facilities, libraries, or technology.

Eliminate the Master of Arts in Chemistry,  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

Dr. Bernhard provided information on the recommendation to eliminate the Master of Arts in Chemistry in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and explained that the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences offers a Master of Science in Chemistry, which eliminates the need for a Master of Arts in Chemistry. He said there have been no enrollments in the Master of Arts program in more than 25 years.

Eliminate the Master of Science in Taxation,  
Gies College of Business and the Graduate College, Urbana

Next, Dr. Bernhard discussed the recommendation to eliminate the Master of Science in Taxation in the Gies College of Business and the Graduate College, Urbana, stating that the last cohort of 26 students graduated from this program in 2018. He said that no students have enrolled since then, and prospective students with an interest in this area could pursue the Master of Science in Accountancy or the Master of Accounting Science in Accountancy programs.

Eliminate the Master of Journalism in Journalism,  
College of Media and the Graduate College, Urbana

Dr. Bernhard provided information on the recommendation to eliminate the Master of Journalism in Journalism in the College of Media and the Graduate College, Urbana. He said the one student enrolled is expected to graduate in Spring 2023, at which point the program would be eliminated. He said students have greater interest in the Master of Science in Journalism.

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

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. Robert Jones to discuss the recommendation to amend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate *Constitution*. Dr. Jones reviewed the proposed changes, which he said would allow for electronic participation in meetings of the Senate and its committees, aligning the *Constitution* with the way business is being done currently.

Appoint Faculty Fellows to the Institute for the Humanities,  
Academic Year 2023-2024, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Karen Colley, acting provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, Chicago, to report on the recommendation to appoint faculty fellows to the Institute for the Humanities, Academic Year 2023-2024, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago. Dr. Colley stated that the recommended faculty members are released from teaching and administrative duties for one year to devote full effort to research. She said this is a competitive process and listed the faculty members recommended for appointment. Ms. Craig Schilling commented on the fascinating topics being researched, and President Killeen suggested a future presentation on Institute for the Humanities and Center for Advanced Study research projects.

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 May 17, 2023, at 3:30 p.m., at Champaign.

MEETING ADJOURNED

On motion of Mr. Camacho, seconded by Mr. Edwards, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m. by the following roll call vote: Aye, Mr. Camacho, Ms. Craig Schilling, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Formea, Mr. Gutman; Absent, Mr. Haq, Ms. Holmes.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY A. STEIN  
*Secretary-designate*

TAMI CRAIG SCHILLING  
*Chair*

EILEEN B. CABLE  
*Special Assistant to the Secretary*