

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
NOVEMBER 15, 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 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago, Illinois, on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, beginning at 4:09 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: Ms. Tami Craig Schilling; Mr. Donald J. Edwards; Mr. Joseph Gutman; Mr. Mohammed A. Haq, voting student trustee, Chicago; Mr. Kyle Ingram,¹ student trustee, Springfield; and Ms. Sanchita Teeka, student trustee, Urbana. Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes was absent. Ms. J. Carolyn Blackwell, Mr. Ramón Cepeda, and Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz attended as guests.

Also present were President Timothy L. Killeen; Mr. Lester H. McKeever Jr., treasurer; 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. Marie Lynn Miranda, chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and vice president, University of Illinois

¹ Mr. Ingram attended 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); Ms. Adrienne Nazon, vice president of external relations and communications; Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows, University counsel; and Dr. Jeffrey A. Stein, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University.

Ms. Craig Schilling welcomed everyone to the meeting and remarked on the student experience, stating that students are finishing their fall semester and preparing for finals. She commented that over 90,000 students are fully engaged in helping themselves and helping the state become more viable in many fields. She welcomed Ms. Blackwell and Mr. Ruiz to the Board, and she gave an overview of the agenda for the meeting. She highlighted presentations from the faculty, sharing their impactful and innovative research, and said this will be the first installation of a series of such presentations. Ms. Craig Schilling then asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes from the committee meeting held September 20, 2023. There were none. On motion of Mr. Haq, seconded by Mr. Gutman, 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 NOVEMBER 16, 2023

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.

There were no objections to this item being forwarded to the full Board for approval.

PRESENTATIONS

Accreditation Process

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Nicholas Jones to give a presentation on the Accreditation Process (materials on file with the secretary). Dr. Jones emphasized the importance of accreditation and stated that it is a complex process and involves significant effort. He referred to the role of trustees in the process and said that visiting accreditation teams will meet with some members of the Board. He stated that the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is the accreditor for the universities and that certain fields have separate and parallel accreditation processes, in addition to that of the HLC. He shared information

about the HLC and said that accreditation is a means to assure quality to the public utilizing comprehensive criteria. He described HLC evaluation criteria and said that academic offerings, governance and administration, mission, finances, and resources are reviewed and rigorously evaluated. He noted that accreditation is required to receive federal and state funds in the form of financial aid and research funding, and he emphasized the importance of maintaining accreditation.

Dr. Jones then shared information about the open pathway 10-year cycle, which culminates in a decision by the commission, and described the work required for each step in the process. He stated that engagement with the HLC is ongoing, and he gave examples of data that is shared with the HLC annually or as a result of substantial changes. He listed the status of each university in the 10-year open pathway process and said Urbana is currently in the assurance review phase, Springfield is in the quality initiative phase, and Chicago is in the year 10 comprehensive review for reaffirmation phase. Dr. Jones provided information about aspects of the assurance review process underway at Urbana and described the types of information to be submitted by April 8, 2024. He said it is a complex and robust review process. He told the Board that Springfield is working on its quality initiative, which may focus on a general education assessment to build upon work already in progress. He stated that Chicago is currently completing its comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation, and he described the components of the evaluation, including the submission of an Assurance Argument. He stated that the evaluation is a peer reviewed process that includes an in-person site visit. He listed the university's goals for the comprehensive review and said the mock review

was successful. He provided information about the on-site visit that will take place on March 11 and 12, 2024, reviewed the HLC standards that are related to governing boards, and said the site visit will involve some members of the Board. He said the university is nearing the end of a labor-intensive process and told the committee that the accreditation process is taken very seriously. Discussion followed regarding the timeline, the role of peers in the process, and the Assurance Argument. Dr. Miranda added that the HLC is a quality organization that aims to help universities improve. Ms. Craig Schilling thanked Dr. Jones for the presentation.

Quantum Engineering, Chicago

At 4:42 p.m., Dr. Miranda introduced Dr. Thomas Searles, associate professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, College of Engineering, Chicago. Dr. Searles gave a presentation (materials on file with the secretary) on quantum engineering at the University of Illinois Chicago and said he was the first Black faculty member in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He referred to Governor Pritzker's investment in quantum and described federal support for quantum research. He discussed opportunities for the university to become a leader in the field and the potential impact on job creation, and he told the committee that the Chicago area is one of the top three best positioned regions in the United States for supplying the future quantum workforce. Dr. Searles gave examples of research underway at the university and showed a quantum computing market map. He discussed methods for achieving a quantum-smart workforce and gave examples of programs in quantum engineering,

stating that there were no bachelor's degree programs in the field as of Fall 2022. He emphasized the need to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the field, and he described academic programs in development and other educational opportunities currently underway. He highlighted three students at the university and said that he aims to advance quantum engineering at the university and take a leading role in the field.

Mr. Ruiz asked about interaction with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the University of Chicago. Dr. Searles referred to the Chicago Quantum Exchange and other opportunities for collaboration and said he hopes the university can take a leading role. President Killeen commented that Dr. Searles accompanied him on a successful trip to Singapore visiting its national university. President Killeen also referred to the creation of the first quantum network of its kind at Urbana and asked Dr. Robert Jones to comment. Dr. Jones reported that the first public quantum network was launched between the university and the library last week and said this is a huge and innovative achievement. He stated that the Chicago Quantum Exchange was started as a partnership between the universities at Urbana and Chicago, and he emphasized that that the governor's office insisted on a focus on the democratization of quantum computing to have a significant impact on underserved communities and workforce development impacting communities surrounding the University of Illinois Chicago. Dr. Searles remarked on the importance of the universities at Chicago and Urbana working together to further research and education efforts. Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Searles if it would be possible to provide the committee with information on what would be needed to surface the great talent he discussed. Dr. Searles indicated he is a national leader in

quantum education and would send the committee reports on this topic. Dr. Miranda referred to the Bridge to Faculty (B2F) program, which Dr. Searles mentioned during his presentation, and said this program provides support for post-doctoral scholars from underrepresented backgrounds to transition to faculty. She stated there are currently 49 scholars in the program.

Transforming Cardiac Arrest Care

At 5:02 p.m., Dr. Miranda introduced Dr. Terry Vanden Hoek, head and chief of service for the department of Emergency Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Illinois Chicago. She stated that Dr. Vanden Hoek's election to the National Academy of Medicine is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a physician. Dr. Vanden Hoek began his presentation entitled, "Transforming Cardiac Arrest Care" (materials on file with the secretary) and told the committee that out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) affects about 1,000 people each day, with a survival rate of 7 percent. He said this poses a large public health challenge, and he commented on the use of defibrillators, CPR, and cooling to increase rates of survival. He shared information about Illinois Heart Rescue (ILHR), which focuses on engaging the most at-risk communities in Illinois through targeted outreach and education to improve bystander CPR rates. He reported on the ILHR Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) grant, which has awarded 70 devices, and increased voluntary participation in the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES). He discussed ILHR's impact on health equity and said hospital disparities present an ongoing challenge.

Dr. Vanden Hoek discussed the benefits of cooling to improve rates of survival and said research is underway to create a drug that would produce cooling-like protection during CPR without lowering temperature in the patient. He said his research on this topic was recently published in *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*. He concluded his presentation, which was followed by a round of applause.

Ms. Craig Schilling congratulated Dr. Vanden Hoek on his election to the National Academy of Medicine. She noted that both Dr. Searles and Dr. Vanden Hoek connected their research to the needs of the state. Dr. Vanden Hoek remarked on the support from the University for ILHR. Discussion followed regarding availability of AEDs, and Dr. Vanden Hoek indicated that they are deployed throughout the campus. He also referred to opportunities for CPR training.

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 January 17, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., at Chicago.²

² The meeting location was later changed to Urbana.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Ms. Craig Schilling requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Haq, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m. There were no “nay” votes.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY A. STEIN
Secretary

TAMI CRAIG SCHILLING
Chair

EILEEN B. CABLE
Special Assistant to the Secretary