

MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE, PERSONNEL, AND ETHICS COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
JANUARY 17, 2024

This meeting of the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois was held in the I Hotel and Conference Center, Heritage Hall, 1901 South First Street, Champaign, Illinois, on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, beginning at 1:20 p.m.

Trustee Joseph Gutman, 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. Joseph Gutman; Mr. Wilbur C. Milhouse III; Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz.<sup>1</sup> Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes was absent. Ms. J. Carolyn Blackwell; Mr. Ramón Cepeda; Mr. Donald J. Edwards; Mr. Mohammed A. Haq, voting student trustee, Chicago; Ms. Sanchita Teeka, student trustee, Urbana; and Mr. Kyle Ingram, student trustee, Springfield, attended as guests.

Also present 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. Marie Lynn Miranda, chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and vice president, University of Illinois System; Dr. Paul N. Ellinger, comptroller (and vice

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Ruiz attended via remote videoconference.

president/chief financial officer); Mr. Scott E. Rice, interim University counsel; and Dr. Jeffrey A. Stein, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University.

Mr. Gutman gave an overview of the agenda for the meeting. He asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the minutes from the meeting that was held on November 15, 2023, and there were none. On motion of Ms. Craig Schilling, seconded by Mr. Milhouse, 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 18, 2024

Mr. Gutman introduced the recommended items within the purview of this committee on the Board’s agenda at its meeting on January 18, 2024. All recommended items discussed at the meeting are on file with the secretary.

Appointments to the Faculty, Administrative/Professional Staff,  
and Intercollegiate Athletic Staff

Mr. Gutman asked Dr. Stein to comment on the recommended appointments to the faculty, administrative/professional staff, and intercollegiate athletic staff. Dr. Stein explained that the appointments recommended in this item are thoroughly reviewed at the appropriate levels within the college, department, and unit, and he asked that members of the committee contact him with any questions.

Approve Revisions to the University of Illinois System Conflict of Interest Policies

Mr. Gutman asked Dr. Nicholas Jones to report on the recommendation to approve revisions to the University of Illinois System Conflict of Interest policies. Dr. Jones stated that the University of Illinois Policy on Conflicts of Commitment and Interest Review Committee, which is comprised of 15 individuals from the three universities, reviewed the current policies and suggested revisions. He said conflict of interest is a complex and sensitive topic and that the committee spent more than a year conducting its review. Dr. Jones summarized the proposed changes to the University Policy on Conflict of Commitment and Interest, the University of Illinois System Policy on Financial Conflicts of Interest in Research, and the University of Illinois System Policy on Organizational Conflicts of Interest, which were outlined in greater detail in the materials provided to the Board.

#### Appoint University Counsel

Next, Mr. Gutman asked Dr. Jones to discuss the recommendation to appoint Mr. Scott E. Rice as University counsel. Dr. Jones stated that he was chair of the search committee, and he listed its other members. He stated that the committee reviewed 29 applications from a diverse pool of candidates and that the committee interviewed eight individuals via videoconference. Dr. Jones said the committee advanced eight candidates to the president and Board chair for their consideration. He said that Mr. Rice, who most recently served as deputy counsel, was identified as the successful candidate.

Mr. Gutman thanked Dr. Jones for the information and stated that Mr. Rice served as deputy University counsel for the past five years, proving to be an invaluable advisor to the Board. He said Mr. Rice continues to serve the University System with distinction and said he looks forward to working with him. President Killeen stated that a national search was conducted and said no one is more qualified to take on this vital role than Mr. Rice. He said Mr. Rice is an alumnus, a skilled attorney, and a collaborative leader, and he said Mr. Rice has been a member of University counsel staff since 2005. He remarked on Mr. Rice's responsiveness and congratulated him on this new role.

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

## PRESENTATIONS

### 2023 Ethics and Compliance Office Annual Report

Mr. Gutman asked Ms. Donna S. McNeely, executive director of University ethics and compliance, to give the annual report from the University Ethics and Compliance Office (materials on file with the secretary), and he noted that this would be Ms. McNeely's last meeting of the Board after serving the University for 30 years. Ms. McNeely began her report by presenting the organizational chart and highlighted the addition of a senior compliance officer. She showed the mission statement for the office and reported on significant accomplishments for 2023. Ms. McNeely shared data regarding the ethics line and ethics training, stating that compliance has been at 99.99 percent for 19 of the last 20

years. She discussed Title IX training and reported on the processing of Statements of Economic Interest, as well as supplemental statements, which must be reviewed by the ethics officer prior to filing. Ms. McNeely then discussed compliance program efforts, which she said emphasized student and employee safety, and she referred to efforts promoting a culture of compliance. Ms. McNeely concluded her presentation by giving an update on revisions to the Code of Conduct, which she said will be considered by the Board in the future. There were no questions regarding the presentation, and Mr. Gutman thanked Ms. McNeely for the presentation and for her many years of service to the University.

#### Background Check Policy Presentation and State Universities Civil Service System Update

Mr. Gutman then asked Ms. Jami M. Painter, senior associate vice president and chief human resources officer, to give an annual report on the policy on background checks and an update on the State Universities Civil Service System (materials on file with the secretary). Ms. Painter gave an overview of the policy on background checks, which was approved by the Board at its September 2015 meeting and described the background check process. She reported on the number of posted job vacancies, applicants, number of background checks conducted, and background check costs from November 1, 2022, through October 31, 2023. Ms. Painter showed that 0.23 percent of offers were withdrawn based on the background check review process. She said the background

check process has not had an adverse impact on recruitment and mitigates risk to the University.

Ms. Painter then gave an update on the State Universities Civil Service System Modernization Project. She listed priorities and said efforts are underway to address these areas. Ms. Painter concluded her presentation, and Ms. Craig Schilling asked Ms. Painter to give examples of issues that were revealed during the background check process that would prevent a candidate from being hired. Ms. Painter stated that these are somewhat dependent on the position being filled and said some examples of findings from background checks that resulted in offers being withdrawn included weapons charges, battery, theft, and assault.

#### Legislative Update

Next, Mr. Gutman asked Ms. Jennifer M. Creasey, assistant vice president, external and state relations; and Mr. Paul Weinberger, assistant vice president, federal relations, to give a legislative update. Ms. Creasey discussed the 2024 legislative agenda, which she said revolves around securing increased state funding, and she highlighted an emphasis on funding for the Prairie Research Institute, which she said has seen a minimal increase in funding since joining the University in 2008. She referred to initiatives to partner with the State to bolster the State economy and said efforts to seek regulatory relief for procurement and civil service reform will continue. Ms. Creasey mentioned the Illinois Connection alumni advocacy program and highlighted upcoming events. She reported on

conversations with constituents and said these conversations will continue throughout the year.

Mr. Weinberger gave an update on federal relations. He referred to a recent event that featured a robust discussion about agricultural research that was attended by the U.S. Department of Agriculture undersecretary and nine members of the Illinois delegation and was hosted by Dr. Robert Jones and Dr. Joseph T. Walsh Jr., vice president for economic development and innovation. Mr. Weinberger listed upcoming events. He gave an update on spending levels for the current fiscal year and said there is hope that Congress will approve another short-term funding extension this week to avoid a partial government shutdown. Mr. Weinberger said work is underway on Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations, and he told the committee that the rollout of a new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application, changes to the visa program, and new regulations on Title IX are being monitored.

Mr. Gutman thanked Ms. Creasey and Mr. Weinberger for their reports.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was no business presented under this aegis.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was no business presented under this aegis.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mr. Gutman announced that the next meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2024, at 1:30 p.m., in Springfield. He asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, and on motion of Mr. Milhouse, seconded by Ms. Craig Schilling, the meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m. There were no “nay” votes.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY A. STEIN  
*Secretary*

JOSEPH GUTMAN  
*Chair*

EILEEN B. CABLE  
*Special Assistant to the Secretary*