

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
MARCH 27, 2024

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 27, 2024, beginning at 3:22 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. J. Carolyn Blackwell; Ms. Tami Craig Schilling; Mr. Mohammed A. Haq, voting student trustee, Chicago; Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes; Mr. Kyle Ingram, student trustee, Springfield; and Ms. Sanchita Teeka, student trustee, Urbana. Mr. Joseph Gutman was absent. Mr. Donald J. Edwards and Mr. Wilbur C. Milhouse III 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 System; Dr. Paul N. Ellinger, comptroller (and vice president/chief financial officer); Ms. Adrienne Nazon, vice president of external relations and communications; Mr. Scott E.

Rice, 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. She asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes from the committee meeting held January 17, 2024. There were none. On motion of Mr. Haq, seconded by Ms. Holmes, 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 MARCH 28, 2024

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, 2024-2025

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Nicholas Jones to report on the recommendation to approve sabbatical leaves of absence for Academic Year 2024-2025. Dr. Jones explained that sabbatical leaves of absence permit tenured faculty to have highly 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 217 sabbatical requests for Academic Year 2024-2025, and that there were 214 sabbatical leaves of absence last year. He noted that approximately 90 percent of sabbatical leaves are taken after approval.

Approve Student Health Insurance Rates for University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Academic Year 2024-2025

Dr. Jones then discussed the recommendation to approve student health insurance rates for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for Academic Year 2024-2025. He said the rates at Chicago and Springfield are unchanged from last year and that the proposed rate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign would increase by approximately 4.7 percent for undergraduates and 4.6 percent for graduate and professional students. He said the cost increase is due to a continued increase in the number of students waiving out of the plan, greater utilization of services, including prescription drug usage and cost, overall growth in mental healthcare utilization, and some larger trauma/injury situations. Ms. Craig Schilling referred to a discussion she had with Dr. Jones regarding the option to opt out, rather than opt in, of insurance coverage, and said the justification for opting out prioritizes the health and safety of students. She encouraged each university to more clearly communicate the rationale for choosing to provide an opt out option, rather than opt-in.

Appoint Interim Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Engagement, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. Miranda to discuss the recommendation to appoint Dr. Charu Thakral, presently executive associate vice chancellor for diversity, equity, and engagement; research assistant professor, Department of Educational Psychology, College of Education; and instructor, Department of Medical Education, College of Medicine, as the interim vice chancellor for diversity, equity, and engagement. She said Dr. Thakral is well respected across many different departments throughout the university and has served as interim vice chancellor for diversity, equity, and engagement designate since January 9, 2024. Dr. Miranda referred to current challenges in the field of diversity, equity, and engagement in higher education. She said a search for a new vice chancellor for diversity, equity, and engagement to serve on a permanent basis will begin next year.

#### Appoint Dean, College of Dentistry, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. Robert Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago, to report on the recommendation to appoint Dr. Susan A. Rowan, presently interim dean, executive associate dean, associate dean for clinical affairs, and professor of restorative dentistry, College of Dentistry, Chicago, as dean, College of Dentistry, Chicago. Dr. Barish described Dr. Rowan's background and experience and said she will be the first woman to serve as dean in the history of the college.

#### Appoint Interim Dean, College of Public Affairs and Education, Springfield

Next, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Brandon Schwab, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, Springfield, to share information about the recommendation to appoint

Dr. Tyrone “Ty” Dooley as interim dean of the College of Public Affairs and Education, Springfield. Dr. Schwab stated that Dr. Dooley has served as interim dean designate since January 1, 2024, and he described his background and experience. He said Dr. Dooley will succeed Dr. Robert Smith, who served as dean through December 20, 2023.

Rename the Department of English and Modern Languages,  
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Springfield

Dr. Schwab then discussed the recommendation to rename the Department of English and Modern Languages in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Springfield, as the Department of English. He said that the modern language program housed only a minor in Spanish, which will be eliminated. He said renaming the department as the Department of English would more accurately reflect the mission of the unit, as well as its curricular offerings and areas of faculty expertise.

Appoint Fellows to the Center for Advanced Study, Academic Year 2024-2025, Urbana;  
Appoint Associates to the Center for Advanced Study,  
Academic Year 2024-2025, Urbana

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. John Coleman, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, Urbana, to report on the recommendations to appoint fellows and associates to the Center for Advanced Study at Urbana, Academic Year 2024-2025. Dr. Coleman 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. Coleman reported that untenured faculty are appointed as fellows, and tenured faculty are appointed as associates. Dr. Coleman reported that this year’s fellows

come from three different academic departments across two colleges. He also reported that this year's associates come from nine different academic departments, with 33 percent women and 22 percent underrepresented faculty.

Establish the Master of Science in Game Development,  
School of Information Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

Dr. Coleman then discussed the recommendation to establish the Master of Science in Game Development in the School of Information Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana. He stated that the program would provide technical training and practical experience for students interested in working in professional game studios, game adjacent industries, or other businesses where game-related skills are increasingly in demand. He referred to the growth of the video game industry and described the interdisciplinary nature of the program. He said related report items request the establishment of concentrations in art, design, production, programming, and narrative and stated that students will focus their technical skills in one of these areas depending on the concentration they choose to pursue in the program.

Appoint Faculty Fellows to the Institute for the Humanities, Academic Year  
2024-2025, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Karen Colley, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, Chicago, to provide information about the recommendation to appoint faculty fellows to the Institute for the Humanities, Academic Year 2024-2025, 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.

Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in  
Linguistics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

Dr. Colley then discussed the recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Linguistics, in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago. She said the new proposed major provides students with a comprehensive understanding of language, including its structure and use and the role that language plays in cognition, communication, and society, combining theory and practical applications to equip students with skills to analyze language, understand the socio-cultural context of language usage and change, and conduct research in various linguistic domains. She said graduates will be able to pursue graduate studies and will be well prepared to enter professions in a wide variety of fields. She described current options for students interested in pursuing studies in linguistics and referred to growth of the minor in linguistics, as well as overall student interest in the field. She told the committee that the current department budget is sufficient to launch the new degree program, and the faculty, staff, and resources necessary to offer the program are also already in place.

Establish the Bill and Julie Kellner Center for Neurogenomics, Behavior, and  
Society, Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, Urbana

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Robert Jones to discuss the recommendation to establish the Bill and Julie Kellner Center for Neurogenomics, Behavior, and Society in the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology at Urbana. Dr. Jones gave some background on the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology (IGB), the field of neurogenomics, and the Center for Social and Behavioral Science (CSBS). He referred to the creation of a new interdisciplinary research center that brings together a breadth of fields to conduct cutting-edge collaborative research to synthesize and create new knowledge to advance understanding to solve complex problems by which genes influence behavior and shape society and individuals, specifically with the focus on individuals' mental health. He emphasized that this center would be located in IGB but is designed to serve other departments and colleges across the university and University System.

Dr. Jones said he is grateful for the generous contribution from Mr. William L. "Bill" Kellner and Ms. Julie A. Kellner to establish the Bill and Julie Kellner Neurogenomics, Behavior, and Society Fund, and he shared information about their backgrounds and connections to the University System. Ms. Craig Schilling expressed appreciation for alumni who bring their passion to a cause meaningful to them and highlighted that this will have benefits across the University System.

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

Dr. Jones then reported on the recommendation to amend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate *Constitution* and said the proposed changes would clarify that



students eligible to participate in the Senate must be seeking a degree and would remove mention of the University of Illinois Chicago College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign.

#### Award Honorary Degree, Urbana

Dr. Jones discussed the recommendation to award the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts to Ms. Jeanne Gang, founding principal and partner, Studio Gang. He listed Ms. Gang's achievements and accolades and referred to her work throughout Chicago. He said she will be the commencement speaker in May.

#### Award Honorary Degree, Springfield

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. Gooch to discuss the recommendation to award an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters to Dr. Burks Oakley II. Dr. Gooch stated that Dr. Oakley is professor emeritus of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and said that following his retirement, he taught courses at the University of Illinois Springfield. She described his contributions to online learning at Springfield, stating that he is a widely respected pioneer in the field of distance learning and a nationally recognized board member of the Online Learning Consortium. She said he held critical roles in the development and implementation of online learning at Springfield and said he has been an advocate for academic integrity and distance learning. She told the committee that his contributions enabled the University of Illinois Springfield to become a nationally acclaimed leader in online education, and she

also commented on his efforts that helped the university navigate obstacles presented during the global pandemic.

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

## PRESENTATIONS

### Research Integrity

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Nicholas Jones to introduce a presentation from the faculty on research integrity. Dr. Jones introduced Dr. Christopher Lehmann, research integrity officer, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Dr. Richard Gemeinhart, associate vice chancellor for research and research integrity officer, University of Illinois Chicago; and Dr. Lucía Vázquez, associate vice chancellor for research and innovation, University of Illinois Springfield. Dr. Vázquez reviewed the definition of misconduct, showed the policy on integrity in research and publication at the University of Illinois Chicago, and shared the definition of the University System policy on research integrity. She gave an example of research fabrication and falsification that had longstanding impacts and shared examples of plagiarism. Dr. Lehmann presented university-level research misconduct proceedings, which include steps to conduct an assessment, inquiry, and investigation. He described the process at each step and emphasized that the proceedings are very thorough. Dr. Gemeinhart reviewed procedures for allegations involving University System officials and presented sanctions and corrective actions for violations, stating that these are generally not designed to be punitive, but rather are designed to

correct the science and prevent future violations. He stated that there is collaboration between the three universities on these issues, and he told the committee that the upcoming annual meeting of the Association of Research Integrity Officers is being held on September 16-18, 2024, in Chicago.

Dr. Nicholas Jones thanked the members of the faculty for the information. Ms. Holmes asked them to comment on the impact of artificial intelligence, and Dr. Gemeinhart stated that artificial intelligence has increased volume but has also made it easier to identify. Ms. Craig Schilling inquired about the frequency of these types of occurrences, and Dr. Vázquez stated there have been none in the three years in which she has served in this role at Springfield. Dr. Lehmann said there are approximately 24 allegations per year at Urbana, noting that there are usually three to four inquiries per year and one to two investigations. Dr. Gemeinhart said the number is similar at Chicago, adding that numbers are increasing nationally. He also told the committee that universities are required to report these numbers to federal agencies and to Congress. Mr. Haq asked how students are selected to serve on the inquiry team and what measures are taken to ensure there is no conflict of interest. Dr. Lehmann referred to graduate student committees through which students are identified and said efforts are made to ensure the students understand the responsibility and time commitment. He said there is a small stipend paid for their time.

Aspirations for Consilience at UIS

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Gooch to introduce Dr. John Ferry, professor, College of Health, Science, and Technology, University of Illinois Springfield, to give a presentation entitled, “Aspirations for Consilience at UIS (materials on file with the secretary). Dr. Gooch described Dr. Ferry’s background, stating that Dr. Ferry joined the university this year after leaving the university of South Carolina where he served as a professor and graduate director for chemistry and biochemistry. She described his area of research and said he will help modernize science labs and equipment suites to enhance the student learning experience and will work on collaborative projects at Urbana, Chicago, and the Discovery Partner Institute. She said Dr. Ferry also has the expertise to help design environmental and chemistry outreach programs with minority communities in the context of environmental justice. She said his appointment will bring transformative excellence and innovation to the university and bolster its position in the broader academic and scientific community.

Dr. Ferry referred to the book, “Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge,” by Edward O. Wilson and said that he came to the University of Illinois Springfield after retiring from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill because of his daughter’s health condition. He described the path that led him to the University of Illinois Springfield, beginning with a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and he gave examples of his work, highlighting successful collaborations and team building. He discussed pedagogical and growth opportunities at the University of Illinois Springfield, as well as opportunities for research. He listed goals, including the identification and study of peer aspirant programs for individual degree tracks and

research output; optimization of outcomes for students with significant advanced placement credit; support for individual research outcomes by strategically minimizing data costs; and the development of institutional growth goals and targets for individual degree programs. Ms. Craig Schilling thanked Dr. Ferry for his presentation, which was followed by a round of applause.

#### 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 15, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., at Urbana.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

Ms. Craig Schilling requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Haq, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, the meeting adjourned at 4:46 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*