

MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

MARCH 27, 2024

This meeting of the University Healthcare System 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 12:04 p.m.

Trustee Donald J. Edwards, chair of the committee, convened the meeting and asked the secretary to call the roll. The following committee members were present: Mr. Ramón Cepeda; Mr. Donald J. Edwards; Mr. Mohammed A. Haq, voting student trustee, Chicago; and Ms. Sarah C. Phalen. Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz was absent. Ms. J. Carolyn Blackwell; Ms. Tami Craig Schilling; Mr. Wilbur C. Milhouse III; and Ms. Sanchita Teeka, student trustee, Urbana, 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. 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. Scott E. Rice, University counsel, and Dr. Jeffrey A. Stein, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 12:05 p.m., Mr. Edwards stated: “A motion is now in order to hold an executive session to consider pending, probable, or imminent litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the University.” On motion of Mr. Haq, seconded by Mr. Cepeda, this motion was approved. There were no “nay” votes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Material redacted pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2.06d)

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNED

With no additional questions or comments, the executive session ended at 12:36 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMED

The meeting resumed at 12:38 p.m., with all committee members recorded as being present at the start of the meeting in attendance. Mr. Edwards requested a motion to

approve the minutes of the meeting held January 17, 2024. On motion of Mr. Haq, seconded by Mr. Cepeda, the minutes were approved. There were no “nay” votes.

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Robert A. Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago, to make opening remarks. Dr. Barish gave a presentation (materials on file with the secretary) and highlighted the recommendation to appoint Dr. Susan A. Rowan as the dean of the College of Dentistry, Chicago, making her the first woman to serve as dean of the college in its 111-year history. He shared information about the Illinois Medical District, stating that it is the largest medical district in North America and an economic engine for Chicago. Dr. Barish said it serves the most diverse patient population on the continent and shared data demonstrating the diversity of its patients. He reported on specialty care provided by UI Health and highlighted the treatment of cancer and sickle cell disease, as well as transplant surgery.

Next, Dr. Barish shared information about Urgent Care at Mile Square Health Center. He listed its hours, shared the most common conditions treated, and presented data regarding its payer mix. Dr. Barish reported on average daily visits and said that growing demand has led to an expansion of services. He stated that 77 percent of Urgent Care visits are from patients in the community who do not receive their primary care at Mile Square, and he said that 5 percent of Urgent Care visits since September 2020 have resulted in referrals to the Emergency Room.

Mr. Cepeda asked Dr. Barish to comment on the impact of Mile Square finances on the finances of UI Health. Dr. Barish stated there is a firewall that separates the finances of the two entities, and Mr. Laurence S. Appel, chief financial officer, University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics, noted that this firewall is necessary because Mile Square is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) with separate financial reporting. President Killeen remarked on the diversity of patients served by Mile Square, and Dr. Miranda commented on the role of FQHC's. She added that there is a search underway for a new director for Mile Square, as the current director is retiring. Dr. Barish stated there is a high level of interest in the role. Mr. Cepeda and Dr. Barish also discussed the need for additional space.

REPORTS

Hospital and Clinics Chief Executive Officer Report

Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Mark I. Rosenblatt, interim chief executive officer, University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics, and G. Stephen Irwin Dean, College of Medicine, Chicago, and Dr. Tiesa Hughes-Dillard, chief nursing officer, University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics, to give a report on the University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics (materials on file with the secretary). Dr. Rosenblatt shared points of pride and showed photographs from the first annual medical staff appreciation event. He reported on a successful visit from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and said that 78 physicians were featured in *Chicago Magazine* as Top Docs. Dr. Rosenblatt also told the committee that

the hospital and clinics were able to continuously provide care during a recent cyber attack that impacted many hospitals.

Dr. Rosenblatt then presented financial results and highlighted growth in volume due to increases in the number of clinic visits and surgeries. He reported that the number of days of cash on hand has increased. He told the committee that the year-to-date operating margin is healthy and presented operating revenue and expense data from Fiscal Years 2022, 2023, and 2024. Dr. Rosenblatt then showed charts depicting unrestricted and internally restricted cash and investments and discussed key comparison ratios for health system bond rating medians for A-rated hospitals. Mr. Cepeda inquired about expenses, and Mr. Appel discussed the impact of the low use of agency contract nurses, stating that this lowers expenses. Mr. Appel said that significantly higher patient volume has helped the operating margin, and he commented on Medicare and Medicaid rates and claim processing. He added that a positive operating margin is expected for January and February. Mr. Appel and Mr. Edwards discussed comparison ratios and credit rating agency evaluations, and Mr. Appel provided information about the number of days of cash on hand at some hospitals and the ways in which those funds are used. Dr. Miranda stated that it is important to recognize that cash on hand allows the hospital to upgrade and invest in its facilities.

Next, Dr. Hughes-Dillard gave the Chief Nursing Officer Report and discussed quality and safety, beginning with the downward trend of the rate of hospital acquired pressure injuries. She reported on the use of Dynamic Appraisal of Situational

Aggression (DASA), an assessment tool designed to assist in the appraisal of a patient's risk for violence, and said the pilot program resulted in a decrease in assaults and assaults with injuries. Dr. Hughes-Dillard also gave an update on the path to achieve Magnet status designation, noting that only 9.4 percent of hospitals in the United States have such designation. She described the documentation and data that is required as part of this process. Next, Dr. Hughes-Dillard reported on low use of agency contract nurses at UI Health, and she reviewed a staffing safety event report summary. She showed key performance indicators and demonstrated that performance met the stretch goal in most areas. Dr. Hughes-Dillard concluded her presentation, and Dr. Miranda remarked on the benefits of the intentionally low use of agency contract nurses at UI Health.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no business presented under this aegis.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Edwards asked if there was any new business to discuss, and there was none. He announced that the next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2024, at 12:30 p.m., at Urbana.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mr. Edwards asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Haq, seconded by Mr. Cepeda, the meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m. There were no “nay” votes.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY A. STEIN
Secretary

DONALD J. EDWARDS
Chair

EILEEN B. CABLE
Special Assistant to the Secretary