

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
MAY 15, 2024

This meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs 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, May 15, 2024, beginning at 4:17 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. Joseph Gutman; Mr. Mohammed A. Haq, voting student trustee, Chicago; Mr. Kyle Ingram, student trustee, Springfield; and Ms. Sanchita Teeka, student trustee, Urbana. Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes was absent. Mr. Wilbur C. Milhouse III and Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz 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 president/chief financial officer); Dr. Joseph T. Walsh Jr., vice president for economic

development and innovation; 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 commented on the recent Commencement ceremonies and thanked all who worked to make these events a success. She said this is a great time for reflection and that much work is underway to prepare for the fall semester.

Ms. Craig Schilling asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes from the committee meeting held March 27, 2024. 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 MAY 16, 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.

Establish the Siebel School of Computing and Data Science,
The Grainger College of Engineering, Urbana

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. John Coleman, vice chancellor for academic affairs, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, to discuss the recommendation to establish the Siebel School of Computing and Data Science in The Grainger College of Engineering at Urbana. Dr. Coleman told the committee that The Grainger College of Engineering proposes to transform the existing Department of Computer Science into the Siebel School of Computing and Data Science, expanding the mission and increasing the capacity of the existing department. He described the structure of the proposed school and said that computing has become the third pillar of engineering disciplines, along with physical sciences and mathematics. Dr. Coleman said establishing the school would recognize the importance of computing in data science in disciplines across engineering and would expand and support interdisciplinary programs across the university. He stated that the school anticipates a net gain of five to six faculty and four staff per year for the next three years, along with an approximate 5 percent to 8 percent per year increase in nonpayroll expenses for the next four years. He said these costs are expected to be covered by tuition and research revenue.

Dr. Coleman told the committee that planning for a new facility is underway to accommodate faculty, staff, and students and serve as a hub for research, innovation, and scholarship, and he referred to committed funding from the State, university, and anticipated donor resources. He added that the school anticipates continued collaboration with the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI) and would support greater engagement with Chicago industry and the research ecosystem of the Chicago

area. He commended Dr. Rashid Bashir, dean of The Grainger College of Engineering, for his work that led to this recommendation and highlighted his efforts to gain university-wide support for the school.

President Killeen referred to the exciting merger of computing and data science and the vision for future possibilities. He asked Dr. Bashir to comment. Dr. Bashir acknowledged the support he received from his fellow deans, the provost, and the chancellor. He referred to this as an inflection point and discussed the role of data science in generative artificial intelligence (AI), possibilities for the future, and the intersection of computing, quantum computing, and AI. Dr. Robert Jones stated that Dr. Bashir formed a coalition of deans who support this proposal, and he thanked Mr. Thomas M. Siebel for this investment, which will place the university on the leading edge of the discipline. Ms. Craig Schilling remarked on the proposal and its link to agriculture, and Dr. Bashir commented on the university's focus on digital agriculture. He also highlighted its commitment to democratizing and diversifying the teaching of computer science and AI and said iCAN (Illinois Computing Accelerator for Non-Specialists), which is designed for those who did not major in computing, is an example of such efforts. Dr. Bashir said it was designed originally for students from diverse backgrounds and is a successful model.

Rename and Revise the Master of Science in Biology,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

Next, Dr. Coleman provided information on the recommendation to rename and revise the Master of Science in Biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the

Graduate College at Urbana. He said the proposed program name, Master of Science in Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior, is more descriptive and more accurately conveys the course content and area of faculty specialties. Dr. Coleman said the name is also better aligned with other programs in the School of Integrative Biology, which list the sponsoring department as the major and not as a concentration. He told the committee there is no anticipated impact on faculty, staff, teaching loads, course enrollments, or facilities.

Rename and Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Biology,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

Dr. Coleman then discussed the recommendation to rename and revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College at Urbana. Like the previous recommendation, he said the proposed program name, Doctor of Philosophy in Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior, is more descriptive, more accurately conveys the course content and area of faculty specialties, and is better aligned with other programs in the School of Integrative Biology. Dr. Coleman said there is no anticipated impact on faculty, staff, teaching loads, course enrollments, or facilities.

Eliminate the Master of Science in Special Education,
College of Education and the Graduate College, Urbana

Dr. Coleman reported on the recommendation to eliminate the Master of Science in Special Education in the College of Education and the Graduate College at Urbana. He said there has been no enrollment in this program since Fall 2019, when two students

enrolled, both of whom later enrolled in the Master of Education in Special Education and have graduated. He said the Master of Education in Special Education serves the needs of prospective students seeking a master's level program in the field, making the Master of Science in Special Education unnecessary. Dr. Coleman said resources and effort can be streamlined into the Master of Education in Special Education program and indicated there is no anticipated impact on faculty, staff, teaching loads, course enrollments, or facilities.

Mr. Ruiz asked Dr. Coleman to explain the difference between the Master of Science and Master of Education programs. Dr. Coleman stated that the Master of Science has additional prerequisites and is more science-based than the Master of Education.

Appoint Dean, Graduate College, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Miranda to discuss the recommendation to appoint Dr. David T. Eddington, presently professor of biomedical engineering, College of Engineering, as dean of the Graduate College, Chicago. Dr. Miranda said Dr. Eddington succeeds Dr. Karen J. Colley, who was appointed as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs effective July 1, 2023. She stated that the search committee identified Dr. Eddington, and she said Dr. Eddington has been a leader at the university regarding creative approaches to graduate education to ensure that students have quality individualized development plans, make timely progress toward their degrees, and have financial sustainability plans for supporting them. She described his character and

highlighted his thoughtful approach and listening skills. Dr. Miranda described his background and experience and said she looks forward to working with him in this role.

Establish the Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Chicago

Dr. Miranda then reported on the recommendation to establish the Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Chicago. She stated that no new funding is required or requested to establish this degree, and she told the committee that currently students may train as statisticians by entering the Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics program and specializing in statistics and probability. Dr. Miranda said that instruction for the new program will be provided by the current faculty and the required courses in the program are already being offered. She said that establishing a Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics would boost the visibility of the program in the eyes of potential students and faculty, including those who are using a search engine to find relevant programs.

Rename and Revise the Master of Science in Disability and Human Development,
College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College, Chicago

Next, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Robert A. Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago, to discuss the recommendation to rename and revise the Master of Science in Disability and Human Development in the College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College, Chicago, as the Master of Science in Disability Access and Inclusion. He said the proposed renaming is consistent with the overall goals of the program and

better aligns with related career pathways. He said the proposed change will not require any additional faculty, staff, or resources, and he told the committee that revisions are being made to the curriculum consistent with the program's updated focus on applied, skill-based learning, while better matching the profile of prospective students. He said that several courses that are currently being offered are being eliminated in the department to make way for courses that will provide a stronger foundation for the study of contemporary issues in the field.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Getting to Know the University of Illinois Press

At 4:41 p.m., Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Laurie Matheson, director, University of Illinois Press, University of Illinois System, to give a presentation on the University of Illinois Press (materials on file with the secretary). Dr. Matheson highlighted multiple University of Illinois Press publications, gave an overview of the UI Press, and described its service to the University System. She shared recent accomplishments and provided information about an upcoming symposium, entitled "Free People Read Freely: Literacy, Inclusion, and Democracy," held on August 20 and 21, 2024. President Killeen stated that he is proud of the UI Press. He referred to the upcoming symposium, which he noted is being organized by both Dr. Matheson and Ms. Anne Craig, senior director of the

Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI). He asked Dr. Nicholas Jones to remark on its significance. Dr. Jones said that the UI Press and CARLI are jewels in the System crown and are often not as known outside the University as they might be. He said their success and effectiveness should be promoted. Ms. Craig Schilling asked how many universities have a press, and Dr. Matheson estimated that there are about 140 members in the Association of University Presses. Ms. Craig Schilling noted that it appears that a low percentage of universities have their own press. Dr. Matheson then highlighted the University Press logo, which she said was created in 2018 during its centennial. Ms. Craig Schilling thanked Dr. Matheson for the presentation.

Urban Public Space: The Case of Urban Nightlife

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. Robert Jones to introduce the next presenter. Dr. Jones introduced Dr. Reuben A. Buford May, Florian Znaniecki Professorial Scholar, professor and department head of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana. Dr. Jones described Dr. May's background and said he conducts his research at the intersection of community and urban sociology on race, gender, and class. Dr. May began his presentation (materials on file with the secretary), entitled "Urban Public Space: The Case of Urban Nightlife," by describing his experience as a child in Chicago and his interest in urban public space and urban sociology. He said that his research culminated with his book *Urban Nightlife: Entertaining Race, Class, and Culture in Public Space*, and he highlighted two observations from the book. Dr. May said he found

that diverse groups would be physically proximate to one another but remain socially distant, a concept he referred to as integrated segregation. He said the second observation involved the use of dress codes to discriminate against Black men, and he told the committee that his continued research on the use of dress codes and discrimination found that African American men were twice as likely to experience discrimination in their attempts to gain access to night clubs. Dr. May described the impact of his research and ways in which he plans to expand on these ideas in the future. Ms. Teeka asked if the race of the bouncer at a given nightclub changed the outcome, and Dr. May stated that it did not, noting that many of the bouncers in his research were Black. Ms. Craig Schilling thanked Dr. May for the presentation.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Ms. Craig Schilling stated that this would be the last Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting for Ms. Teeka, Mr. Haq, and Mr. Ingram, and she thanked them for successfully serving as student trustees for the past year. She acknowledged their contributions to many discussions and said they asked insightful and thoughtful questions. This was followed by a round of applause. She then welcomed the newly elected student trustees who would begin their terms on July 1, 2024. She introduced Ms. Ariana Mizan, representing the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Mr. Quinn Basta, representing the University of Illinois Chicago; and Mr. Christian Johnson, representing the University of Illinois Springfield. Ms. Craig Schilling thanked them for attending the meeting and said she is looking forward to working with them over the next

year. This was followed by another round of applause. President Killeen congratulated the outgoing student trustees and said they effectively represented the student body at each university and added incredible value to discussions throughout the year.

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 July 10, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., at Chicago.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Ms. Craig Schilling commented on Commencement ceremonies and the wide variety of students that are served by the University. She remarked on the journey that leads to graduation and the challenge of finding ways to enhance that journey for the University's students. Ms. Craig Schilling then requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Ingram, seconded by Mr. Haq, the meeting adjourned at 5:16 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