

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

MAY 15, 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, May 15, 2024, beginning at 2:09 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; Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes;¹ Mr. Wilbur C. Milhouse III; Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz. Ms. J. Carolyn Blackwell; Mr. Ramón Cepeda; Mr. Donald J. Edwards; Mr. Mohammed A. Haq, voting student trustee, Chicago; Mr. Kyle Ingram, student trustee, Springfield; and Ms. Sanchita Teeka, student trustee, Urbana, 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. Janet L. Gooch, chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and vice president, University of Illinois System; Dr. Paul N.

¹ Ms. Holmes attended via remote videoconference.

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.

Mr. Gutman welcomed everyone and 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 March 27, 2024, 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 MAY 16, 2024

Mr. Gutman introduced the recommended items within the purview of this committee on the Board’s agenda at its meeting on May 16, 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. Mr. Gutman highlighted the appointment of Ms. Melissa Mlynski as chief ethics and compliance officer for the University Ethics and Compliance Office. President Killeen thanked Mr. John B. Alsterda for coming out of retirement to serve as interim executive director of ethics and compliance, and he welcomed Ms. Mlynski to her new role.

Appoint Vice Chancellor for Finance, Chicago

Next, Mr. Gutman asked Dr. Miranda to report on the recommendation of Mr. Matthew Fajack, most recently vice president for finance and operations and university treasurer at the University of Alabama, as the vice chancellor for finance at Chicago. Dr. Miranda described Mr. Fajack's background and experience and highlighted his deep understanding of the university's student body and mission.

Appoint Head Varsity Coach, Men's Basketball, Chicago

Dr. Miranda then discussed the recommendation to appoint Mr. Robert Ehsan, previously associate head coach of men's basketball at Stanford University, as the head coach for men's basketball, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Chicago. She described his background and experience and emphasized his focus on the student-athlete, noting that his appointment will also add greater diversity to the university's coaching staff.

Reappoint Members to the Advisory Board, Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) in Springfield, Chicago

Dr. Miranda provided information about the recommendation to reappoint members to the advisory board for the Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) and provided some background on the DSCC and its role in Illinois. She said this recommendation would reappoint Dr. Carolyn Foster, MD, MSHS; and Dr. Sarah Ann Sobotka, MD, MSCP, to the advisory board.

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

PRESENTATIONS

ADA Title II Changes

Ms. Holmes asked Mr. Joe Barnes, chief digital risk officer, University of Illinois System, to give a presentation on ADA Title II changes (materials on file with the secretary). Mr. Barnes gave an overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and described Title II changes, which he said set specific requirements for web content and mobile application accessibility. He said this impacts the majority of content accessed online, and he gave examples of content in multiple areas of the University System that would be affected. Mr. Barnes described existing efforts to address digital accessibility and gave examples of the approach in various areas. He told the committee the three priority areas are course content, web content, and software applications, and he

said that these are being addressed simultaneously. He said there is uncertainty regarding compliance of existing materials and said the goal is for content to be inclusive from the start.

Legislative Update

Next, Ms. Holmes 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 referred to the 15th annual University of Illinois System Day, which was held in April at the state capitol, and she thanked those in the Illinois General Assembly who engaged with advocates to discuss support for the University. She described other advocacy events and said University leadership's testimony before the Illinois Senate Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriations Committee highlighted the University's commitment to accessible education and the need for funding to support its mission. She said advocacy efforts are focused on increasing funding for operations and deferred maintenance. Ms. Creasey said budget discussions are underway, and she referred to the 1.8 percent increase in funding proposed by the governor for the University. She said many events and conferences will be held throughout the summer.

Mr. Weinberger then gave an update on federal relations and expressed concern regarding a 5 percent decrease in funding to the National Science Foundation (NSF). He described the potential impact on research expenditures, particularly at the

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and said future advocacy efforts will focus on NSF funding. He described additional areas of advocacy and engagement that he said will continue into the summer. Ms. Craig Schilling inquired about the rationale for decreasing NSF funding. Mr. Weinberger referred to NSF funding in prior years that benefited from the CHIPS and Science Act. He said that during times of budget constraints, NSF funding is sometimes weighed against funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He emphasized the need to advocate for NSF funding and to communicate the impact and benefits of fundamental research in science.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Gutman announced that the next meeting of this committee is scheduled for July 10, 2024, at 1:30 p.m., in Chicago.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:37 p.m., Mr. Gutman stated: “A motion is now in order to convene an executive session to consider the following topic as permitted under Section 2(c) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act: discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act (subsection 21).” On motion of Mr. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Craig Schilling, the 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 2:40 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMED

The meeting resumed at 2:40 p.m., with all committee members recorded as being present at the start of the meeting in attendance.

Mr. Gutman stated that there was one agenda item requiring action by the committee, and Dr. Stein read aloud the title of the item, “Disclose Certain Minutes of Executive Sessions Pursuant to Open Meetings Act.” The committee agreed that one vote would be taken and considered the vote on the agenda item as listed below.

Disclose Certain Minutes of Executive Sessions Pursuant to Open Meetings Act

(1) Under the Open Meetings Act passed by the General Assembly, public bodies subject to the Act that conduct business under exceptions specified in the Act must, at least every six months, determine whether the need for confidentiality still exists with respect to each item considered under such exception. Pursuant to the Act, “[m]inutes of meetings closed to the public shall be available only after the public body determines that it is no longer necessary to protect the public interest or the privacy of an individual by keeping them confidential....” [5 ILCS 120/2.06(f)].

A review of unreleased items from September 2010 to November 2023 has been conducted, and the previously withheld text noted below is recommended for release at this time.

The University counsel and the secretary of the Board, having consulted with appropriate University officers, recommends that the following matter considered in executive session for the time period indicated above be made available to the public at this time.

The committee action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The president of the University of Illinois System concurs.

Executive Session Minutes Released to Public**November 15, 2023, Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee**

Mr. Edwards convened this executive session at 2:51 p.m. All trustees who were listed as being present at the start of the meeting were in attendance. The following were also in attendance: Mr. Lester H. McKeever Jr., treasurer; President Timothy L. Killeen; Dr. Nicholas P. Jones, executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Paul N. Ellinger, comptroller (and vice president/chief financial officer); Mr. Thomas R. Bearrows, University counsel; and Dr. Jeffrey A. Stein, secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University.

Discussion of Minutes of Meetings Lawfully Closed Under the Open Meetings Act

Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Stein and Mr. Bearrows to discuss the minutes that had been sequestered under the Open Meetings Act. Dr. Stein stated that each public body subject to the Open Meetings Act shall periodically, but no less than semi-annually, meet to review the minutes of all closed meetings. He said that he and Mr. Bearrows reviewed such minutes and recommend releasing the portion of closed session minutes of the May 17, 2023, meeting of the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee pertaining to the semi-annual review of minutes conducted at that time. He said no other minutes are recommended for release at this time. Mr. Bearrows described the process to determine whether the need for confidentiality still exists based on the guidelines used regarding

potential release and said the sequestered minutes pertain to employee matters. There were no comments or questions regarding this process.

On motion of Mr. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Craig Schilling, this recommendation was approved. There were no “nay” votes.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mr. Gutman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Milhouse, seconded by Mr. Ruiz, the meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m. There were no “nay” votes.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY A. STEIN
Secretary

JOSEPH GUTMAN
Chair

EILEEN B. CABLE
Special Assistant to the Secretary