

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
NOVEMBER 13, 2024

This meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois was held in the Isadore and Sadie Dorin Forum, Rooms D, E, and F, 725 West Roosevelt Road, Chicago, Illinois, on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, beginning at 4:23 p.m.

Trustee Patricia Brown Holmes, chair *pro tem* of the committee, convened the meeting and asked the secretary to call the roll. The following committee members were present: Ms. J. Carolyn Blackwell; Mr. Joseph Gutman; Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes; Ms. Ariana A. Mizan, student trustee, Urbana; Mr. Quinn S. Basta, student trustee, Chicago; and Mr. Christian Johnson, voting student trustee, Springfield. Ms. Tami Craig Schilling was absent. Mr. Donald J. Edwards, Mr. Wilbur C. Milhouse III, and Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz attended as guests.

Also present were Mr. Lester H. McKeever Jr., treasurer; 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. 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. Holmes welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes from the committee meeting held September 18, 2024. There were none. On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, 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 NOVEMBER 14, 2024

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

Ms. Holmes 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 Levenick Center for Climate-Smart Circular Bioeconomy, Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment, Urbana

Ms. Holmes asked Dr. Robert Jones to discuss the recommendation to establish the Levenick Center for Climate-Smart Circular Bioeconomy in the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment at Urbana. Dr. Jones referred to the challenge of building a climate-resilient agricultural system and transitioning to a circular bioeconomy and said the establishment of this center is an example of the way in which the university is a leader in addressing global sustainability and mitigating climate change. He said the center would support outreach and programming, in collaboration with academic units at the university, on corporate sustainability and would translate cutting edge research into practical applications and scalable solutions, fostering the creation of green jobs. Dr. Jones gave some background on Stuart L. and Nancy J. Levenick and expressed appreciation for their support.

Award Honorary Degrees, Urbana

Dr. Jones then reported on the recommendation to award the honorary degree of Doctor of Sciences and Letters to Dr. Sabina Alkire, Department of International Development and director, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at Oxford University; and the Doctor of Humane Letters to Mr. Larry W. Gies, founder and chief executive officer of Madison Industries. He described the contributions of both individuals and shared the rationale for the recommendation to award them honorary degrees.

### Appoint Professors to the Center for Advanced Study, Urbana

Ms. Holmes asked Dr. John Coleman, provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, to discuss the recommendation to appoint professors to the Center for Advanced Study, Urbana. Dr. Coleman listed the professors being recommended and gave background on the Center for Advanced Study. He said new professors are appointed every two to three years when membership falls below 19 due to retirements or departures, and he described the nomination and appointment process.

### Establish the Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering + Data Science, The Grainger College of Engineering, Urbana

Dr. Coleman then reported on the recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering + Data Science in The Grainger College of Engineering at Urbana. Dr. Coleman noted that Dr. Dallas Trinkle, Ivan Racheff Professor and Associate Head of Materials Science and Engineering, The Grainger College of Engineering, Urbana, was in attendance via remote videoconference in the event there were specific questions. Dr. Coleman then stated that this proposed degree is part of the X + DS initiative, and he provided information about X + DS programs and listed X + DS programs created to date. Dr. Coleman said the Materials Science and Engineering + Data Science program responds to market demand. He said there is no anticipated impact on faculty, staff, teaching loads, course enrollments, or facilities.

Ms. Mizan and Dr. Trinkle briefly discussed the application of machine learning in that curriculum.

Eliminate the Master of Science in Rehabilitation,  
College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

Next, Dr. Coleman discussed the recommendation to eliminate the Master of Science in Rehabilitation and told the committee there has been no enrollment in the program since 2018. Mr. Johnson asked why there had been no enrollment, and Dr. Kristin Carlson, professor and assistant department head, Department of Health and Kinesiology, Urbana, stated that she was unsure. She noted that students at the undergraduate level are enrolled in undergraduate rehabilitation programs.

Rename and Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in History of Art,  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

Dr. Coleman provided information regarding the recommendation to rename and revise the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in History of Art. He said the proposed new name, Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Art History, reduces confusion created by the current name, History of Art, and aligns with the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art and Art History.

Eliminate the Master of Jurisprudence, UIC School of Law, Chicago;  
Eliminate the Master of Laws in Real Estate Law, UIC School of Law, Chicago;  
Eliminate the Master of Laws in Employee Benefits, UIC School of Law;  
Eliminate the Master of Laws in Intellectual Property Law, UIC School of Law, Chicago

Ms. Holmes asked Dr. Karen J. Colley, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, University of Illinois Chicago, to discuss recommendations to eliminate the Master of Jurisprudence, the Master of Laws in Real Estate Law, the Master of Laws in Employee Benefits, and the Master of Laws in Intellectual Property Law, all in the UIC School of Law, Chicago. Dr. Colley said UIC School of Law proposes the elimination of these graduate programs that are supplementary to their primary Juris Doctorate (JD) program, which is the school's priority. She said this change was encouraged by their accrediting body. Dr. Colley said these programs have already suspended admissions or had no enrollment, and she told the committee that the Master of Laws in Real Estate Law and the Master of Laws in Employee Benefits do not match the institutional priorities of UIC Law. She said the school will continue to offer extensive curriculum in intellectual property law, including a concentration within the JD degree.

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

## PRESENTATIONS

### Revolutionary New Materials from Extreme Environments

At 4:48 p.m., Ms. Holmes asked Dr. Miranda to introduce Dr. Russell Hemley, Distinguished Chair in the Natural Sciences and professor, physics and chemistry, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois Chicago, to give a presentation entitled "Revolutionary New Materials from Extreme Environments"

(materials on file with the secretary). Dr. Miranda stated that Dr. Hemley was recruited through the University of Illinois Distinguished Faculty Recruitment Program, and she described his background and field of research. She listed the many awards he has received, said he is a prolific scholar and researcher, and told the committee that the university is privileged to have him as a member of the faculty.

Dr. Hemley began his presentation and described the effects of pressure on materials, which create new structures and properties. He said this has profound implications in many areas, and he described research related to the search for room temperature superconductors. Dr. Hemley referred to work with graduate students and highlighted some discoveries that were made through their research. He stated that this work has been enabled by the proximity of the university to facilities such as Argonne National Laboratory, as well as partnerships with other laboratories and facilities. Dr. Hemley said he was attracted to the university because of its students and the chance to allow them the opportunity to experience the joy and sheer thrills of discovery. He also expressed appreciation for the support and encouragement of Dr. George Crabtree, former professor of physics at the University of Illinois Chicago, who died in 2023.

Dr. Hemley's presentation was followed by a round of applause, and Ms. Holmes thanked Dr. Hemley for the presentation. President Killeen and Dr. Hemley briefly discussed the change in bonding under exotic conditions.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was no business presented under this aegis.

## NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Holmes 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 January 22, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., at Chicago.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

Ms. Holmes requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Basta, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. There were no “nay” votes.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY A. STEIN  
*Secretary*

PATRICIA BROWN HOLMES  
*Chair Pro Tem*

EILEEN B. CABLE  
*Special Assistant to the Secretary*