

MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
NOVEMBER 13, 2024

This meeting of the University Healthcare System 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 12:39 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: Ms. J. Carolyn Blackwell; Mr. Ramón Cepeda; Mr. Donald J. Edwards; Ms. Sarah C. Phalen;<sup>1</sup> Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz; and Mr. Quinn S. Basta, student trustee, Chicago. Mr. Joseph Gutman;<sup>1</sup> Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes; Mr. Wilbur C. Milhouse III; Ms. Ariana A. Mizan, student trustee, Urbana; and Mr. Christian Johnson, voting student trustee, Springfield, 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. Marie Lynn Miranda, chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and vice president, University of Illinois System; Dr. Janet L. Gooch, chancellor,

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<sup>1</sup> Ms. Phalen and Mr. Gutman attended via remote videoconference.

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.

#### MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Edwards stated: “A motion is now in order to convene an executive session to consider the following topics as permitted under Section 2(c) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act: pending, probable, or imminent litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the University (subsection 11); and discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act (subsection 21).” On motion of Mr. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, 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 1:19 p.m.

## REGULAR MEETING RESUMED

The meeting resumed at 1:23 p.m. Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Stein to make an announcement regarding today's meeting. Dr. Stein referred to the Board's long-established procedures to provide for an orderly hearing of comments from the public during its meetings and the statement that appears in the public notice for this meeting, is posted outside the meeting venue and appears throughout the Board of Trustee's website. He read the statement as follows:

The Board of Trustees meeting is open to the public, pursuant to Illinois state law and the Board's own procedures. Attendees will not be permitted to knowingly interfere with or impede, through disruptions or other means, the Board's performance of its institutional duties. Individuals who disrupt the meeting will be asked to leave. If the disruption continues following due notice to depart the meeting space, individuals will be removed from the premises. Individuals who disrupt the Board's performance of its institutional duties or refuse to leave the meeting may be in violation of state laws, including but not limited to the Illinois Interference with a Public Institution of Education Act.

Mr. Edwards requested a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held September 18, 2024. On motion of Mr. Basta, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, the minutes were approved. There were no "nay" votes.

Mr. Edwards 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 July 2014 to July 2024 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, recommend 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**

### **May 15, 2024, University Healthcare System Committee Meeting**

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

At 1:29 p.m., Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Stein and Mr. Rice to discuss minutes sequestered under the Open Meetings Act. Dr. Stein stated that each public body subject to the Open Meetings Act shall, at least every six months, meet to review the minutes of all closed meetings. He said that he and Mr. Rice reviewed such minutes and recommend the release of minutes from November 15, 2023, which pertain to the semi-annual review that took place at that time. Mr. Rice listed the primary topics of sequestered minutes from Board meetings. There were no comments or questions regarding this process or the recommendation.

On motion of Mr. Cepeda, seconded by Mr. Basta, this recommendation was 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 referred to the momentum and positive trajectory of UI Health. He highlighted the October 24 accreditation visit from the National Cancer Institute (NCI),

and he referred to aspects of the presentation that was made in support of the application for status as an NCI-designated cancer center. He announced that Mr. Henry Taylor would be retiring from his role as executive director of the Mile Square Health Center, and that Dr. Karriem Watson will serve in that role effective December 1, 2024.

Dr. Barish referred to the many accomplishments and progress that has been made in the time that Mr. Edwards served as a trustee and chair of the Board. Dr. Barish said that in honor of Mr. Edwards' last meeting of the University Healthcare System Committee, he would highlight the major projects and initiatives that were successfully completed during his tenure. He shared information about the implementation of Epic; the construction of the Surgical Innovation and Training Laboratory; the administration of the Credit Union 1 Arena COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Clinic; the expansion of services at the 55<sup>th</sup> and Pulaski Health Collaborative; the construction of the UI Health Specialty Care Building; the establishment of the Auburn-Gresham Primary and Immediate Care Center; and the opening of the College of Dentistry Inclusive Care Center. Dr. Barish added that UI Health had a record-breaking 1.4 million clinical visits last fiscal year.

Dr. Barish stated that Mr. Edwards has been an outstanding advocate for the health enterprise and said his commitment to the University System is unwavering. He thanked Mr. Edwards for his support and expressed appreciation for the \$100,000 gift from Mr. Edwards and his wife, Ms. Anne Edwards, to the UI Health Employee Relief Fund, which supported healthcare workers at the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System during the COVID-19 pandemic. His remarks were followed by

a round of applause. Mr. Edwards thanked Dr. Barish for the kind remarks and thanked him for his leadership.

## REPORTS

### Hospital and Clinics Chief Executive Officer Report

Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Mark I. Rosenblatt, chief executive officer, University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics, and G. Stephen Irwin Dean, College of Medicine, Chicago, to give the Hospital and Clinics Chief Executive Officer Report (materials on file with the secretary). Dr. Rosenblatt shared points of pride and highlighted recipients of awards for physician of the year, advanced practice provider of the year, resident of the year, and employee of the year. He also showed photographs of the UI Health 5K Fun Run. Dr. Rosenblatt then discussed Fiscal Year 2025 strategy, which he said consists of five pillars centered around the theme “mission-driven as one.” He said each pillar includes objectives and initiatives for implementation.

Dr. Rosenblatt gave a quality update and showed progress on Fiscal Year 2025 True North metrics. He thanked Mr. Edwards for his support of UI Health and ensuring the vigilant pursuit of excellence.

### Graduate Medical Education Report

Mr. Edwards asked Dr. Raymond Curry, senior associate dean for educational affairs, University of Illinois College of Medicine, to give a Graduate Medical Education (GME)

report. Dr. Curry referred to a report that was provided to the Board and shared highlights from the academic year. He reported on the scope and size of the program and said the university sponsors 41 residencies and 47 fellowships across the Chicago, Peoria, and Rockford campuses. Dr. Curry said these programs currently enroll nearly 1,200 residents and fellows, with two-thirds in Chicago-based programs, one-third in Peoria-based programs, and 2.5 percent in the two family-medicine programs based at Rockford. He said about 60 percent remain in the state for their careers. Dr. Curry emphasized the GME program's continued efforts to expand and enhance the training of primary care physicians to better serve the people of Illinois. He highlighted programs at each campus and said that when new programs are fully implemented, the College of Medicine will sponsor seven family-medicine programs and will produce more than 40 new family-medicine physicians each year. Dr. Curry assured the committee that the GME programs sponsored by the College of Medicine are thriving, and he said they continue to work to ensure the future of medical care in Illinois. Mr. Edwards thanked Dr. Curry. There were no questions from members of the committee.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Edwards announced a public comment session and explained that Illinois law provides for a public comment session during this meeting. He said each speaker will have three minutes to address the committee, and there are no substitutions for speakers. He said the public commenter speaking at today's meeting made a request that is consistent with the *Procedures Governing Appearances Before the Board of Trustees*



Mr. Edwards invited Ms. Debreshia Flowers-Anderson to comment.

Ms. Flowers-Anderson stated that she has been a staff nurse at UI Health since 2015, and she said that the relationship between staff and leadership has become strained and tense. She told the committee that she felt valued and heard when she was first at UI Health. Ms. Flowers-Anderson stated that she received the “Good Catch” award earlier in the year and said this was only possible because of adequate staffing at that time. She said that safe staffing is being challenged, as are opportunities for nurses to practice in their areas of expertise. Ms. Flowers-Anderson said a cost-of-living increase is needed, and she said leadership and nursing needs to return to valuing one another, respecting each other’s opinions, and supporting each other.

#### 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 January 22, 2025, at 12:30 p.m., in Chicago.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

Mr. Edwards then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Basta, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 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*