

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
SEPTEMBER 18, 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, Illinois Ballroom, 1901 South First Street, Champaign, Illinois, on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, beginning at 3:30 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; Ms. Ariana A. Mizan, student trustee, Urbana; Mr. Quinn S. Basta, student trustee, Chicago; and Mr. Christian Johnson, voting student trustee, Springfield. Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes was absent. Mr. Donald J. Edwards, Mr. Wilbur C. Milhouse III, Ms. Sarah C. Phalen, and Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz attended as guests.

Also present were President Timothy L. Killeen; Mr. Lester H. McKeever Jr., treasurer; 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.

Ms. Craig Schilling welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes from the committee meeting held July 10, 2024. There were none. On motion of Mr. Basta, 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 SEPTEMBER 19, 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.

Appoint Dean, College of Engineering, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Karen J. Colley, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, Chicago, to discuss the recommendation to appoint Dr. Omolola Eniola-Adefeso, presently the Vennema Endowed Professor of Chemical Engineering, professor of biomedical engineering, professor of macromolecular science and engineering, associate dean for graduate and professional education, College of Engineering, and university diversity and social transformation professor, University of Michigan, as dean, College of Engineering, Chicago. Dr. Colley described Dr. Eniola-Adefeso's background and experience and said she was selected as a result of a national search with assistance of a search firm. She described Dr. Eniola-Adefeso's research and said she recently received a \$10.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health that will fund the Humanity Unlocking Biomaterials (HUB) center. She said the NIH has approved the relocation of the HUB center to the University of Illinois Chicago. Dr. Colley referred to Dr. Eniola-Adefeso's many awards and various prestigious roles she has held. She gave examples of Dr. Eniola-Adefeso's work to increase diversity and inclusion in the field of engineering and said her commitment to principles of access and excellence align with the mission of the University of Illinois Chicago.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Sampling-Based Task and Motion Planning: From Robotic Manipulators to Intelligent CAD to Analyzing Proteins

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Jones to introduce Dr. Nancy Amato, Abel Bliss Professor of Engineering, and interim director of the Siebel School of Computing and Data Science in The Grainger College of Engineering, Urbana. Dr. Jones stated that Dr. Amato joined the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign faculty in 2019, and he highlighted some of her many accomplishments. He referred to her work with undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom are from underrepresented groups. Dr. Jones said she was recently inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He told the committee she is an alumna of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and he listed some of the prestigious universities where she was a faculty member prior to joining the University of Illinois. Dr. Jones asked Dr. Amato to begin her presentation entitled “Sampling-Based Task and Motion Planning: From Robotic Manipulators to Intelligent CAD to Analyzing Proteins” (materials on file with the secretary).

Dr. Amato began her presentation by explaining that her research related to robotics is centered around motion planning and said she works with algorithms to design methods to make it possible for robots to perform intended tasks. She reviewed aspects of motion planning and passed around small, handheld, metal puzzles to demonstrate the steps that might be involved in designing an algorithm to solve the puzzle. Everyone around the table took a turn attempting to solve the puzzle, and all appeared to enjoy the challenge.

Dr. Amato discussed motion planning to solve complex problems and shared various examples of hard planning problems and the use of simulations. She described sampling-based planning as a strategy for solving a variety of problems, and

she showed how algorithms can be used in a Configuration Space (C-Space) with this approach. Dr. Amato told the committee that the best part of her job is working with students, and she shared photographs highlighting some of her former students and their successes. Her presentation was followed by a round of applause.

President Killeen commented on applications for this strategy, and Mr. Johnson and Dr. Amato briefly discussed solutions for other mathematical puzzles. Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Amato what drew her to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Dr. Amato referred to her experience as a graduate student and her appreciation for the university's multidisciplinary approach, stating that multidisciplinary research is in the university's DNA. She referenced the university's success in establishing CS + X degrees and its efforts to broaden participation from underrepresented groups in computer science, and she remarked on the potential resulting from the new Siebel School of Computing and Data Science. Ms. Craig Schilling thanked Dr. Amato for the presentation.

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 November 13, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., at Chicago.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Ms. Craig Schilling requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Basta, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 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