

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
JANUARY 22, 2025

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, January 22, 2025, 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; Mr. Ramón Cepeda; 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,¹ voting student trustee, Springfield. Mr. Wilbur C. Milhouse III, Ms. Sarah C. Phalen, and Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz attended as guests.

Also present were Mr. Lester H. McKeever Jr., treasurer;² 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,

¹ Mr. Johnson arrived at 4:20 p.m.

² Mr. McKeever attended via remote videoconference.

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 November 13, 2024. There were none. On motion of Mr. Basta, seconded by Mr. Cepeda, 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 JANUARY 23, 2025

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.

Approve Tuition Rates, Academic Year 2025-2026;
Approve Student Fees for Urbana, Chicago, and Springfield, Academic Year 2025-2026;
Approve Rate Changes for University-Operated Housing Facilities, Urbana, Chicago, and
Springfield, Academic Year 2025-2026

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Nicholas Jones to give a presentation on recommendations to approve tuition rates, student fees, and rate changes for university-operated housing facilities for Academic Year 2025-2026 (materials on file with the secretary). He referred to the consultative process leading to these recommendations and thanked partners at the three universities for their hard work, noting their commitment to affordability for their students. Dr. Jones said three factors were paramount to these recommendations: providing access for Illinois students; keeping education affordable; and ensuring quality of education. He referred to the guaranteed-four-year tuition rate, and he shared that the annual base tuition at the University of Illinois Chicago has only increased \$594, or 5.6 percent, over the past 10 years. Dr. Jones reiterated that the goal is to protect access, affordability, academic quality, and competitiveness, and he said that additional considerations included State support, inflation, and competitive positioning. Dr. Jones stated that the proposed increase in the base tuition rate for new resident undergraduates for Academic Year 2025-2026 would be 2.2 percent at Urbana, 2.2 percent at Chicago, and 2.0 percent at Springfield. He listed ranges of tuition for certain programs and said that the tuition increase would apply only to new students.

Dr. Jones then discussed student fees and assessments, which he said are determined on a cost-recovery basis and are reviewed and endorsed by committees that include students as members. He said the proposed increase for undergraduate fees was

2.1 percent at Urbana, 1.0 percent at Chicago, and 7.4 percent at Springfield. Dr. Jones said health insurance rates and the transportation fee at Chicago would be recommended at a later date.

Dr. Jones reported on recommended room and board rates for undergraduate housing, which reflected proposed increases of 5 percent at Urbana, 5 percent at Chicago, and 4.4 percent at Springfield. He emphasized the impact of inflation and said the rates discussed are similar to those at peer institutions. Ms. Craig Schilling added that a more in-depth presentation on proposed tuition rates, student fees, and rate changes for university-operated housing facilities would be provided to the full Board at its meeting the following day. President Killeen recognized the efforts of Dr. Jones and his team, the chancellors/vice presidents, and provosts and said the recommendation is the result of a collective commitment to affordability. He stated the proposed increase is sub-inflationary and commented on pressures due to inflation.

Ms. Phalen asked about comparisons with peer institutions, particularly in terms of housing, and Dr. Jones confirmed that the rates are comparable. Ms. Craig Schilling emphasized the importance of these agenda items and thanked all involved for their efforts to maintain affordability. Ms. Mizan also expressed appreciation for these efforts and asked how the last tuition increase was received by students and their families. Dr. Jones indicated that they understood its necessity and added that the financial aid component would also be discussed at the Board meeting the following day. Dr. Miranda highlighted the UIC Aspire program, which covers all tuition and fees for qualifying students, and said there are similar programs at Urbana and Springfield.

Award Honorary Degree, Urbana

Next, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Robert Jones to report on the recommendation to award an honorary degree. Dr. Jones stated that this recommendation would award the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters to Mr. Thomas J. Burrell, founder of Burrell Communications Group. He told the committee that Mr. Burrell is a well-known African American in the advertising industry and said that despite his significant visual impairment, he has had an amazing career in the field. Dr. Jones said he created an approach to advertising called “Positive Realism” and helped normalize the image of African Americans in advertising. Dr. Jones said Mr. Burrell is a trail blazer, icon, and visionary, and he listed other awards and recognitions Mr. Burrell has received.

Establish the Bachelor of Science in Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering + Data Science, The Grainger College of Engineering, Urbana

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. John Coleman, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, to discuss the recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Science in Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering + Data Science (BS in NPRES + DS). Dr. Coleman stated that this proposed degree is part of the X + DS initiative and provided information about the structure of X + DS programs. He said this degree responds to market demand and that there is no anticipated impact on faculty, staff, teaching loads, course enrollments, or facilities.

Eliminate the Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training,
College of Applied Health Sciences, Urbana

Dr. Coleman then reported on the recommendation to eliminate the Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training in the College of Applied Health Sciences, Urbana, and said there has been no enrollment since 2014, when admission was suspended due to rising costs and staffing changes. He said that after careful consideration by the department and college, the decision has been made to formally pursue elimination of the degree program. Dr. Coleman said there is no anticipated impact on faculty, staff, teaching loads, course enrollments, or facilities.

Establish the Center for Research and Innovation in Technology-Enhanced Learning,
College of Education, Urbana

Dr. Coleman shared information regarding the recommendation to establish the Center for Research and Innovation in Technology-Enhanced Learning in the College of Education, Urbana. He said the center would draw on the expertise of faculty at the university to investigate and support the transformative development of educational technologies in K-12, higher education classrooms, and other sectors, and would be organized around four primary themes: learning and interactivity research, innovative technology design, impact and policy, and digital access and equity. Dr. Coleman said this would be a uniquely high-powered research center focused around areas in which university is a leader. He told the committee that there is no anticipated impact on faculty, staff, teaching loads, course enrollments, or facilities.

Rename the Center for Women and Gender in Global Perspectives,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

Dr. Coleman then discussed the recommendation to rename the Center for Women and Gender in Global Perspectives in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana, as the Center for the Study of Global Gender Equity. He said that this name would recognize gender equity as a long-standing area of focus of the center and would better signify the range of identities that the center studies. Dr. Coleman said retaining “global” in the name would represent the wide geographical range of the center’s studies. He said there is no anticipated impact on faculty, staff, teaching loads, course enrollments, or facilities.

Extend Term, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Chicago

Next, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Miranda to report on the recommendation to extend the term of the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at Chicago. Dr. Miranda stated that Dr. Karen J. Colley was appointed provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs on a term appointment ending June 30, 2025. She said this recommendation would extend Dr. Colley’s appointment for one additional year, through June 30, 2026. Dr. Miranda stated that many vice chancellor positions at Chicago have been recently or are in the process of being filled and said that it would strain available resources to simultaneously conduct a high-level provost and vice chancellor search. She said that more importantly, the additional year would provide time for Dr. Colley to help orient and acclimate the new vice chancellors who are anticipated to join the university this summer. Dr. Miranda said she consulted with deans, vice chancellors, and the University of Illinois Chicago Senate and said feedback was universally positive. She added that Dr.

Colley is well respected and beloved at the university and opined that the decision to appoint Dr. Colley as provost was her best decision to date.

Award Honorary Degrees, Springfield

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Gooch to provide information regarding the recommendation to award honorary degrees at Springfield. Dr. Gooch stated that this recommendation would award the honorary degree of Doctorate of Humane Letters to Dr. William Bloemer, dean emeritus, University of Illinois Springfield. She described Dr. Bloemer's significant contributions to scholarship, teaching, and leadership and said his innovative vision was essential in the establishment and growth of online learning at UIS and the creation of the Center for Online Learning, Research and Service (COLRS).

Dr. Gooch stated that this recommendation would also award the honorary degree of Doctorate of Humane Letters to Mr. Richard Osborne, senior managing director, Madison Industries. She stated that Mr. Osborne is a University of Illinois Springfield alumnus and is a widely respected pioneer in the field of manufacturing. Dr. Gooch states that Mr. Osborne's contributions, both professional and philanthropic, have not only impacted society at-large but also the university community. She described the impact of his generous contributions and said he received the Alumni Achievement Award from the university in 2013.

Establish the Center for Lincoln Studies as a Permanent Center, Springfield

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Brandon Schwab, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, University of Illinois Springfield, to report on the recommendation to establish the Center for Lincoln Studies as a permanent center. Dr. Schwab described the history of the center, which was granted temporary status in 2018, and said it was created to promote meaningful research, impactful civic engagement, and active learning on the Springfield campus and beyond. He told the committee that the center sponsors and organizes public programs and supports research on President Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy. Dr. Schwab listed some of the center's achievements and described its growth, and he said it has become an important part of the community at the University of Illinois Springfield and in the broader Springfield community. He said no new funding would be needed in support of this recommendation.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Future Proofed: The Role of the Library in Academic Exploration

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Nicholas Jones to introduce the presentation entitled, "Future Proofed: The Role of the Library in Academic Exploration." Dr. Jones commented on the importance of libraries and their integral role in institutional success. He introduced Ms. Claire Stewart, Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries

and university librarian, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Dr. Rhea Ballard-Thrower, dean of university libraries, university librarian, and professor, University of Illinois Chicago; Ms. Pattie Piotrowski, university librarian and dean, University of Illinois Springfield, and he described the background, experience, and areas of expertise of each. He then asked them to give their presentation.

Ms. Piotrowski discussed the evolution of libraries and the ever-changing and innovative ways in which libraries engage and serve students and contribute to the university's mission. She emphasized that academic libraries are not simply storage facilities and instead support the creation of knowledge. Ms. Piotrowski showed a rendering of the design for the Library Commons at Springfield and described it as relentlessly welcoming, and said it would be flexible enough to accommodate the needs of current and future students. She referred to the process of redesigning plans for the building due to cost increases, and she said bids for the redesigned Library Commons would be opened on February 4, 2025. She described aspects of the building and highlighted the ways in which they would meet the needs of students and foster a sense of scholarly belonging and academic success. Ms. Piotrowski remarked on innovation and described the creation of open education resources (OER) that addressed the cost of textbooks that were unaffordable for many students. Ms. Piotrowski told the committee that this was possible due to an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant administered by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) and State funds. She stated that the creation of OER materials removes a barrier to student success.

Dr. Ballard-Thrower referred to the variety of uses and perceptions of university libraries and gave examples of the types of research that could be conducted with the range of resources available. She stated that many students new to the university are unfamiliar with libraries and what they have to offer, and she told the committee that the library provides literacy classes to educate students on the use of library resources. She stated that libraries also provide a space for community and collaboration and referred to the demand for space in the often-crowded library at Chicago. Dr. Ballard-Thrower said that the library supports the mission of the university and provides the highest levels of educational research and clinical excellence to a broad community. She highlighted the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, which brings 15 law and criminology students inside the Cook County jail to complete a course on legal research. Dr. Ballard-Thrower discussed the benefits to students and efforts to end the cycle of recidivism. She remarked on research related to quantum computing and described efforts to assist with grant writing and said the library is ready for the future.

Ms. Stewart stated that the 100th anniversary of the main library at Urbana was celebrated last year, and she referred to three inscriptions on the cornerstone of the building, one of which states “The whole world here unlocks the experience of the past to the builders of the future.” She gave examples of the embodiment of this statement 100 years later and highlighted various ways the library’s archival and special collection have been used recently, stating that knowledge exploration is critical for library spaces. Ms. Stewart said that these types of research help make students feel like authentic members of the academic community by engaging in scholarly communication. She said library

collections exist to be used. Ms. Stewart referred to generative artificial intelligence (AI) and the source material used to train algorithms and tools and said librarians have long advocated for the digital availability of collections and primary sources, noting that there is value in both digital and print formats. She described ongoing efforts at the library to digitize collections and told the committee that the library started building a repository of scanned books 15 years before the COVID-19 pandemic, which made it possible to give dispersed students and faculty access to materials. Ms. Stewart said that while copyright restrictions impact the availability of these materials, these efforts highlight the forward-thinking and revolutionary nature of librarians. She referred to other areas of expertise, including information literacy and research data service, and she said the library helps attract and retain world class faculty. Ms. Stewart said the University of Illinois System benefits from the strength of the three university libraries and CARLI, and she described the ways in which students utilize spaces at the library, adding that students also benefit from employment there. She said that as librarians look to the future, they are utilizing technology and preparing for the future needs of scholars and faculty.

Ms. Craig Schilling asked if there were any questions or comments. Ms. Mizan read a statement that she had prepared about her positive experience with libraries as a University Laboratory High School (Uni High) student in Urbana and as a student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She said that librarians are keepers of knowledge, guardians of third spaces, defenders of fact and truth, champions of community, promoters of student success, and essential to preserving accurate records of

history and collective cultural memory. Ms. Mizan expressed great respect and appreciation for their work. Her remarks were followed by a round of applause.

Discussion followed regarding the use of collaborative and quiet space at the libraries and the demand for study rooms, as well as efforts to foster the creation of knowledge. Ms. Piotrowski, Dr. Ballard-Thrower, and Ms. Stewart described the types of support and guidance provided by librarians to support students as they engage in scholarship and digital literacy. Mr. Ruiz remarked on the pace of knowledge creation in the past 20 years. Ms. Craig Schilling thanked Ms. Piotrowski, Dr. Ballard-Thrower, and Ms. Stewart for the presentation, which was followed by a round of applause. Ms. Craig Schilling referred to time she spent learning about and visiting the libraries as a new trustee, and President Killeen thanked Ms. Mizan for her remarks. Mr. Ruiz highlighted the library's role as a student employer and said he worked in the law library as a student.

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 March 19, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., in Springfield.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Ms. Craig Schilling requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Basta, seconded by Ms. Mizan, the meeting adjourned at 4:51 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