

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

JULY 16, 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, July 16, 2025, beginning at 4:37 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; Dr. Bryan S. Traubert; Ms. Ariana A. Mizan, voting student trustee, Urbana; Mr. Quinn S. Basta, student trustee, Chicago; and Mr. Joe Humphrey, 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; President Timothy L. Killeen; Dr. Nicholas P. Jones, executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Charles L. Isbell Jr., chancellor designate, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and vice president designate, 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. Craig Schilling welcomed everyone to the meeting. She referred to her passion for academic and student affairs and welcomed Mr. Humphrey, representing the University of Illinois Springfield. She recognized Ms. Mizan and Mr. Basta, student trustees returning to the Board for a second year.

Ms. Craig Schilling asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes of the committee meeting held May 21, 2025. There were none. On motion of Ms. Mizan, 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 JULY 17, 2025

Ms. Craig Schilling asked specific individuals in attendance to provide presentations and report on the items that will appear on the Board’s agenda at its meeting on July 17, 2025. All proposed agenda items discussed at the meeting are on file with the secretary.

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.

Promotions in Academic Rank and Change in Tenure, 2025-2026

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Jones to discuss recommendations for promotions in academic rank and change in tenure for Academic Year 2025-2026. Dr. Jones emphasized the importance of these recommendations to promote and tenure faculty and described the rigorous review process and well-established procedures. He said the recommendations for promotion to various ranks are as follows: 101 to professor with indefinite tenure; 131 to associate professor with indefinite tenure; seven without change in rank with indefinite tenure; 46 to non-tenured professor; and 88 to non-tenured associate professor. Dr. Jones also shared the number of recommendations for promotion and tenure at each university. He reported that there were 183 recommendations at Urbana, and he said the increase was due to extensions of the probationary period due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Jones said there were 176 recommendations at Chicago and 14 at Springfield. Ms. Craig Schilling referred to a presentation on the promotion and tenure process that was provided by Dr. Jones at a previous meeting of this committee, and she suggested that it would be useful for Dr. Stein to provide it for new trustees.

Establish the Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering Technology and Management for Agricultural Systems, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. John Coleman, executive vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, to provide information regarding the recommendation to establish the Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering Technology and Management for Agricultural Systems in the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College. Dr. Coleman stated that this would build on an existing program and respond to a growing demand for advanced expertise in emerging agricultural technologies such as robotics, automation, artificial intelligence (AI), industrial biotechnology, and data analytics. He discussed projected enrollment and said it would be 10 to 20 students at year five, which would be full implementation. Dr. Coleman told the committee that the courses would be taught by faculty already teaching at the university and said the program would have little to no impact on faculty, staff, and facility resources.

Eliminate the Doctor of Audiology in Audiology, College of Applied Health Sciences
and the Graduate College, Urbana

Next, Dr. Coleman discussed the recommendation to eliminate the Doctor of Audiology in Audiology in the College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College and referred to clinical faculty shortages and low enrollment, noting that students have migrated to the two-year master's degree. He said students currently enrolled will be able to complete their degree, and he said that faculty currently teaching in the Doctor of Audiology in Audiology program would continue to teach in the department's undergraduate and graduate programs.

Extend Term, Dean, College of Dentistry, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Robert A. Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago, to discuss the recommendation to extend the term of Dr. Susan A. Rowan, dean of the College of Dentistry, Chicago. Dr. Barish stated that Dr. Rowan's appointment was approved by the Board in March 2024 and is effective through April 15, 2026. He said this would extend her appointment through June 30, 2027, and he said this extension allows Dr. Rowan to lead the transformational integration of the College of Dentistry's dental information system. He discussed the salary arrangements for these time periods.

Eliminate the Doctor of Arts in Mathematics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
and the Graduate College, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Karen Colley, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, University of Illinois Chicago, to report on the recommendation to eliminate the Doctor of Arts in Mathematics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College. Dr. Colley shared information about the program and referred to decreased student demand, stating that no students have been enrolled in the program since 2016. She said students that would have traditionally been interested in the program have instead increasingly sought out doctoral programs in mathematics education.

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

Ms. Craig Schilling thanked members of the faculty who joined the meeting via remote video conference to answer questions from the committee members regarding the recommendations. She said that even though the committee rarely has questions, their attendance is greatly appreciated.

PRESENTATION

U of I System Undergraduate Admissions

Ms. Craig Schilling stated the committee would now hear a presentation on undergraduate admissions (materials on file with the secretary). She introduced Ms. Sara MacKenzie, executive director for undergraduate admissions, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Ms. Kiely Fletcher, vice provost for enrollment management, University of Illinois Chicago; and Dr. Vickie Cook, vice chancellor for enrollment and retention management, University of Illinois Springfield, and she asked Dr. Jones to make some introductory remarks.

Dr. Jones introduced the presentation and referred to the importance of recruitment and admissions. He reported that the number of accepted students across the University System increased by 9.5 percent over the previous year and said efforts are underway to convert these to enrollments. Dr. Jones said the 16,294 accepted students were derived from more than 120,000 applications, and he referred to the work that led to the number of applications, as well as the significant effort involved in processing those to reach 16,294 acceptances.

Ms. MacKenzie discussed the admissions firewall, efforts to increase access, and a commitment to the State of Illinois and its residents, and said these efforts are consistent across the three universities. She gave examples of the ways in which all three universities engage in recruitment activities and commit to enrolling students located throughout the state, and she discussed the three universities' commitment to access, equity, and affordability. Ms. Fletcher shared information regarding regulatory and legal challenges, and Dr. Cook reported on innovation and efficiency, sharing examples of strategic resource planning and use of technology.

Ms. Fletcher then discussed recruitment and admissions at the University of Illinois Chicago and reported on increases in first-year applications, enrollment, and rankings. She shared information regarding strategic, mission-driven growth and informed the committee of positive changes to recruitment and marketing efforts, emphasizing the role of student-centered storytelling. Ms. Fletcher reported on the holistic review of applications and described a partnership with colleges regarding admissions decisions, adding that efforts focus on ways to admit students, rather than deny admission.

Dr. Cook shared information about recruitment and admissions at the University of Illinois Springfield, which she said utilizes a centralized approach, and said they aim to increase access as much as possible. She said recruitment takes place throughout the state and is resource intensive, and she reported on the university's response to a changing recruitment environment. Dr. Cook discussed admissions of first-

year, transfer, and graduate students, and she reported on the university's plans for diversification, its value, and its strategic partnerships.

Ms. MacKenzie referred again to commonalities across the University System and highlighted the expansion of the Illinois transfer guarantee, which she said is an example of efforts to increase access for Illinois students. She discussed recruitment and admissions at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and referred to brand awareness of the university, stating that the university is ranked ninth among public universities and 33rd overall. Ms. MacKenzie said recruitment is focused on students in Illinois and stated that there is a misconception regarding admissions among Illinois residents. She reported that over half of the applicants from Illinois are accepted and referred to a commitment to admit and enroll more students from Illinois than those from outside the state or country. Ms. MacKenzie said that approximately 70 percent of the first-year class is traditionally from Illinois, with 85 out of 102 counties represented. She described increases in applications and said a holistic and selective admissions process is utilized. Ms. MacKenzie noted that the exploratory program is an option for students who need time to find their academic fit, and she said that while most students are admitted to their first-choice college, some students are redirected into other programs. She referred to limited capacity in some programs and said that there are also programs that face enrollment and demand challenges in discovery or growth programs due to less interest and awareness among students. Ms. MacKenzie shared information regarding housing, noting that there is a requirement that first-year students live on campus.

Ms. Mizan inquired about future of test optionality for admissions, how admissions has dealt with the loss of that data point, how students are advised regarding test optionality, and whether this aligns with peer institutions. Ms. Fletcher indicated that test optionality is State law and said the University of Illinois Chicago championed test-optional admissions prior to that law taking effect. She said 67 to 70 percent of incoming students at the University of Illinois Chicago opt for test-optional admissions, and she said other points of data are utilized in lieu of test scores for more selective programs. Dr. Cook added that the research on testing shows that the test score is not as a robust data point in the holistic admission process as was originally thought. Ms. MacKenzie stated that approximately half of the applicants at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign submit test scores, noting that this varies by intended program of study. She said Illinois residents are evaluated differently than out-of-state and international students, and she said not having a test score would not negatively impact those students. Ms. MacKenzie added that information regarding admissions is posted on the university's website to help students decide if they should submit test scores, and she told the committee that the test-optional admissions process is in line with the university's peers.

Mr. Ruiz asked if an early-decision policy has been considered, and Ms. MacKenzie said this is currently not offered by the university, stating that it does offer early action, which she said is nonbinding. Mr. Ruiz and Ms. MacKenzie discussed yield rates, and Ms. MacKenzie said this has varied, due in part to the number of options available to students. She said the university is working against the impression that the university is in an elitist space and is instead encouraging greater numbers of students to

apply. She said the early action program is successful. Dr. Miranda added that one downside of the Common App is that students apply to a greater number of schools.

Mr. Milhouse inquired about the firewall in admissions. Ms. MacKenzie stated that conversations between admissions and deans occur to ensure admissions officers are aware of the preferred backgrounds for admission, and she said there are no discussions regarding admission for specific students. She emphasized that steps are taken to ensure there is no unethical influence. Mr. Milhouse and Ms. Fletcher discussed conversations that take place at the start of the admissions cycle.

Mr. Gutman inquired about in-state versus out-of-state students, and Ms. MacKenzie stated that international and out-of-state student profiles tend to be stronger in terms of grade point average and test scores. She reiterated that the holistic admissions process considers a variety of factors, particularly for in-state students.

Dr. Traubert referred to enrollment declines at state universities throughout the country and commented on the remarkable trend of increasing enrollment across the University System. Dr. Traubert and Dr. Cook discussed the potential enrollment cliff and the expected decline in the size of graduating high school classes. President Killeen stated that many Illinois students are leaving the state to attend college elsewhere, and he said that keeping those students in the state would overwhelm a demographic shift.

Ms. Mizan and Ms. Fletcher discussed the composition of recruitment teams and engagement with community partners as the UIC brand continues to build. Ms. MacKenzie described efforts of recruitment teams, partnerships across campus, and leveraging of alumni groups at Urbana, and she said budget restraints require innovation.

Ms. Craig Schilling advocated for efforts to keep people in Illinois and referred to the need to activate the alumni network. She thanked Ms. MacKenzie, Ms. Fletcher, and Dr. Cook for the presentation and discussion and expressed appreciation for the admissions firewall. She again thanked the presenters, which was followed by a round of applause.

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 September 17, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., in Champaign.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Ms. Craig Schilling requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Basta, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, the meeting adjourned at 5:44 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