

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
MARCH 19, 2025

This meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois was held in the Student Union Ballroom, Room 224, 2251 Richard Wright Drive, Springfield, Illinois, on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, beginning at 3:47 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;<sup>1</sup> Ms. Ariana A. Mizan, student trustee, Urbana; Mr. Quinn S. Basta, student trustee, Chicago; and Mr. Christian Johnson, voting student trustee, Springfield. Dr. Suzet M. McKinney, Mr. Wilbur C. Milhouse III, and Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz attended as guests.

Also present were Mr. Lester H. McKeever Jr.,<sup>2</sup> 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,

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 referred to the approaching end of the semester and upcoming graduation ceremonies and remarked on the level of talent that will be released into the market. She invited Dr. Robert Jones to share an update on the Carle Illinois College of Medicine. Dr. Jones gave a brief history of the college, which launched in 2017 and graduated its first class in 2022, and announced that it received full accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). He said it is the world's first engineering-based medical school and told the committee that this is a milestone for the university and for other institutions in this field. Ms. Craig Schilling extended congratulations and remarked on being the first engineering-based medical school in the world.

Ms. Craig Schilling asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes of the committee meeting held January 22, 2025. There were none. On motion of Mr. Basta, seconded by Ms. Mizan, 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 MARCH 20, 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 March 20, 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.

Approve Sabbatical Leaves of Absence, Urbana, Chicago, Springfield, 2025-2026

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. Nicholas Jones to report on the recommendation to approval sabbatical leaves of absence for Urbana, Chicago, and Springfield for Academic Year 2025-2026. Dr. Jones explained that sabbatical leaves of absence permit tenured faculty to have highly focused time to conduct research and gain new knowledge in their respective fields. He stated sabbatical leaves of absence are earned and that a detailed plan is required and reviewed, and he said between 160 and 200 sabbatical requests are

usually approved each year. Dr. Jones stated that there are 192 sabbatical requests for Academic Year 2025-2026, and that there were 208 sabbatical leaves of absence last year. He said 232 were requested last year and noted that of those that are approved, approximately 90 percent of sabbatical leaves are taken. Dr. Jones reported that 126 requests were made at Urbana; 56 at Chicago; and 10 at Springfield. Ms. Mizan inquired about denials of sabbatical requests, and Dr. Jones stated that weak proposals are flagged and proposals are evaluated at several levels.

Approve Student Health Insurance Rate for Urbana, Chicago, Springfield,  
Academic Year 2025-2026

Dr. Jones then reported on the recommendation to approve student health insurance rates for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for Academic Year 2025-2026. He said the rates at Chicago and Springfield are unchanged from last year and that the proposed rate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign would increase by approximately 3.4 percent for undergraduate students and 3.5 percent for graduate and professional students. He said the cost increase is due to a continued rise in the number of students waiving out of the plan, greater utilization of services, including prescription drug usage and cost, overall growth in mental healthcare utilization, and some larger trauma/injury situations. He said the Graduate Employees' Organization negotiated for a higher tier plan. Ms. Blackwell inquired about the number of students estimated to enroll and whether that number could impact rates. Dr. Jones explained that there is a downward trend in participation, noting that large fluctuations are not anticipated. Ms. Craig Schilling referred to the option to opt out of insurance coverage and said the justification for opting

out prioritizes the health and safety of students. Dr. Miranda added that enrollment has declined due to the Affordable Care Act and said that changes to federal legislation need to be closely monitored. Discussion followed regarding the availability of insurance over academic breaks, which is offered for an additional prorated fee.

#### Approve Application Fee Increases for Urbana, Chicago, and Springfield

Next, Dr. Jones provided information regarding the recommendation to approve application fee increases for Urbana, Chicago, and Springfield. He gave a brief history of application fee increases and said that this recommendation would result in application fees that are no longer different based on residency at all three universities. He said the proposed increases are not expected to impact enrollment and that applicants who cannot meet the cost due to financial hardships may have the application fee waived. Dr. Jones said the application fee costs would increase from the current \$50 to \$60 range to \$75 to \$90 across the universities. He said the cost would offset the expense associated with processing a large number of applications. Mr. Johnson asked if all students, including international students, could have the fee waived due to hardship, and Dr. Jones stated that waiving the fee is considered on a case-by-case basis.

#### Approve Expansion of Pilot Tuition Program for Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties in Indiana, Muscatine and Clinton Counties in Iowa, and Marion County in Missouri, Springfield

Dr. Jones then reported on the recommendation to approve the expansion of the pilot tuition program for Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties in Indiana; Muscatine and Clinton

counties in Iowa; and Marion County in Missouri for the University of Illinois Springfield. He stated that this program was introduced in July 2023 to offer Illinois resident tuition for undergraduates coming from shoulder counties in the St. Louis metro area and the Quad Cities area, and he said this recommendation would expand the geographic scope of the pilot to include additional counties. Dr. Jones said the perceived benefits of the program are unchanged, and he commented on the success of the program, as well as challenges. He said that continued and steady growth is anticipated as students become aware of the opportunity. Dr. Gooch added that applications have increased due to these programs, and she said these locations were selected because of the availability of recruiters in these areas. Mr. Ruiz inquired about the location of these recruiters and whether they are employed full-time, and Dr. Gooch explained that they are place-based, and most are employed full-time.

Delegate Authority to Establish and Approve  
Student-Athlete Name, Image, Likeness Policies

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Mr. Rice to report on the recommendation to delegate authority to establish Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) policies. Mr. Rice told the committee that NIL refers to the rights of individuals to control, and in many cases, monetize, their own personal name, image, likeness, voice, and signature. He said he was presenting this item on behalf of the University System because it stems from significant changes to federal and State law. Mr. Rice referred to the changing landscape of college athletics and class action litigation related to NIL and said the court is expected to approve a global settlement in those cases next month. He discussed the impact of the

settlement, which would authorize institutions of higher education to enter into publicity rights agreements directly with current or prospective student-athletes, and said policies are now needed to conform with legal requirements. Mr. Rice said this item would delegate authority to each chancellor, subject to approval by the president or a designee, to develop and implement policies needed to manage the new relationship between universities and select student-athletes. He noted that the creation of such policies is not required, and he emphasized that such expenditures for NIL would be funded by revenues realized by athletics activities and not through State appropriations or tuition. Mr. Rice said the recommendation clarifies and sets forth various approval and reporting obligations as part of the implementation of NIL payments. He also referred to a companion item discussed at the meeting of the Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee meeting for NIL-related services with ICON Collective, Inc.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the use of mandatory student fees, and Mr. Joshua H. Whitman, director of the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, Urbana, stated that while revenue from the athletics facilities student fee was used for maintenance and ongoing needs for Memorial Stadium, the fee is being phased out to avoid any suggestion of the use of student fees to support student athletes in publicity rights agreements. Ms. Mizan asked Mr. Rice and Mr. Whitman to elaborate on the phrasing of “select student-athletes.” Mr. Rice stated that the settlement would result in a pool of money that can be drawn against for payment to certain student-athletes. Mr. Whitman stated that a process has been developed, noting that this is not a pay-for-play paradigm. He said the university would enter into a licensing agreement whereby the university gains access to use a

student-athlete's name, image, and likeness to advance the promotional interests of the university and its athletics program, adding that certain student-athletes carry greater NIL value than others. He gave examples of various sports and positions that would carry greater NIL value and said a process has been created where those dollars could be allocated strategically, advancing both the athletics program and the university. Mr. Whitman said they would continue to facilitate third-party NIL opportunities and referred to increased support for scholarships. Mr. Roger Denny, chief operating officer and executive senior associate athletic director, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, Urbana, referred to the use of various data sources to understand the exposure that student-athletes are getting through their participation in athletics and said the social media reach of all student-athletes is being analyzed by a company called Open Doors. Mr. Johnson inquired about protections for student-athletes and preventing exploitation. Mr. Rice referred to efforts to ensure consistency in contracting documents. Mr. Whitman stated that State laws have created protections for student-athletes, and he said the education program includes information on brand building, entrepreneurial skills, and financial literacy. Mr. Denny stated that student-athletes are provided with resources around advocacy and contract education, and he said the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics contracts with Altia, who provides student-athletes with an independent voice and education in those areas. He also referred to support for students in dealing with social media. Ms. Craig Schilling thanked Mr. Rice, Mr. Whitman, and Mr. Denny for the information.



Next, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. John Coleman, executive vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Urbana, to report on the recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Arts in Media, College of Media, Urbana. Dr. Coleman stated that this would be an online degree completion program for students who attended some college but did not complete a degree. He said there are millions of people across the country who fall into this category, and he told the committee that the degree is flexible and would meet the needs of a wide range of learners. Dr. Coleman said graduates would be prepared for careers in the media industry and in positions in business, government, education, and non-profit sectors that utilize media and communication skills. He said courses in the program are either already offered or are being developed for online delivery. Dr. Coleman said no additional faculty, staff, or facilities are needed, and the program would be supported by the College of Media's budgetary allocation process, which covers faculty and staff salaries centrally and flows additional resources to departments to support instruction.

Establish the Department of Oncology, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana;  
Establish the Department of Surgery and Digestive Health, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana; Establish the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine and Surgery, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana; and Establish the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana

Dr. Coleman then discussed four items recommending the creation of four departments in the Carle Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana. He said these would include the Department of Oncology, the Department of Surgery and Digestive Health, the

Department of Cardiovascular Medicine and Surgery, and the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery. He told the committee that the Carle Illinois College of Medicine currently has two departments and that the current structure is unwieldy, poses administrative challenges, and is not aligned with other schools. He described the many benefits of this change, including enhanced interdisciplinary collaboration and faculty recruitment. Dr. Coleman said the four proposed departments would be responsible for academic research and clinical aspects pertaining to their respective areas.

Eliminate the Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Management,  
College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College, Urbana

Dr. Coleman then reported on the recommendation to eliminate the Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Management in the College of Fine and Applied Arts at Urbana. He said the program has not generated sufficient student interest and enrollment to justify continuation. Dr. Coleman told the committee that mid-career students, the target demographic of the program, were unable to relocate for the one-year period needed to complete the coursework. He said there are no enrolled students, and prospective students interested in this area of study can be served through the Master of Urban Planning (MUP) program. Dr. Coleman said department faculty voted unanimously in September 2024 to eliminate the program, and since faculty involved with the program also teach in the MUP program, the program elimination does not impact unit course offerings or faculty teaching assignments.

Establish the Department of Population Oral Health,  
College of Dentistry, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Robert A. Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago, to discuss the recommendation to establish the Department of Population Oral Health in the College of Dentistry, Chicago. Dr. Barish stated that this recommendation comes as the result of a reorganization in the college to accommodate growth in key areas and to improve the day-to-day functioning of the unit. He said this would be the college's ninth department and would be led by a department head who also serves as associate dean for prevention and public health sciences. Dr. Barish described the objectives of the department and said no new funding is required, as the department would draw on existing faculty, staff, and facilities within the college.

Establish the Master of Science in Analytics and Artificial Intelligence in Business,  
College of Business Administration and the Graduate College, Chicago

Next, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Karen Colley, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, Chicago, to report on the recommendation to establish the Master of Sciences in Analytics and Artificial Intelligence in Business in the College of Business Administration and the Graduate College, Chicago. Dr. Colley described the goals of the program, which she said will be offered through asynchronous online courses, adding that students will have an opportunity to attend a weekly interactive discussion session led by the instructor in each course. She said the program would provide offerings in multiple business disciplines, including operations management, human resource management, marketing, accounting, and finance. Mr. Johnson asked about the length of time anticipated to complete the program and the academic backgrounds of expected students.

Dr. Ali Tafti, professor and head of the Department of Information and Decision Sciences, was in attendance via remote videoconference and said the program is expected to be completed within a year to one and one-half years, depending on time commitments of the student. He said students working full-time would likely take longer to complete the program. Dr. Tafti stated that the program was designed to minimize the amount of prior knowledge needed and that courses such as statistics or programming are built into the program. He referred to the role of the advising process and said there may be additional coursework that could help interested students prepare for the degree.

Eliminate the Bachelor of Science in Economics,  
College of Business Administration, Chicago

Dr. Colley then discussed the recommendation to eliminate the Bachelor of Science in Economics in the College of Business Administration, Chicago, stating that no students have been enrolled in the program since it was suspended in 2008. She said that students interested in the study of economics have been and will continue to be able to pursue the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, major in Economics, offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dr. Colley told the committee that eliminating the Bachelor of Science in Economics will make the university's program inventory more accurate and will provide prospective students with a more realistic view of their academic options.

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



## PRESENTATION

### Growing U of I's Leaders

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Nicholas Jones to introduce the presentation entitled, “Growing U of I’s Leaders” (materials on file with the secretary). Dr. Jones introduced Dr. Sarah Zehr Gantz, senior assistant vice president for academic initiatives and policies, University of Illinois System; and Ms. Jami M. Painter, senior associate vice president and chief human resources officer, University of Illinois System, to discuss the internal development of leaders within the University of Illinois System. Ms. Painter shared information about the Professional Staff Leadership Academy (PSLA) and gave background on the history of its development. She stated that the program’s seventh cohort will begin in two weeks, and she said 120 academic and professional staff have graduated from the program so far. Ms. Painter presented the PSLA program goals, its governance structure, and its budget, and she described the application process, noting that 115 academic and professional staff applied last year. She gave an overview of the curriculum and discussed the program’s success, stating that 37 percent of program alumni have been promoted since completing the program. Ms. Painter stated that Dr. Stein was a member of the first cohort of the program seven years ago, and Dr. Stein commented on the instrumental role the program played in the development of his career.

Dr. Gantz then shared information regarding the President’s Executive Leadership Program (PELP). She provided a history of the program, which she said was created at the request of the Board, and listed program goals, one of which aims to bring

together a diverse group of senior leaders from across the University System. Dr. Gantz said that the target audience is senior administrators and senior faculty. She described the application and selection process, curriculum, and program success, stating that 18 percent of program alumni have been promoted since completing the program. Dr. Gantz highlighted other aspects of the program and stated that Ms. Painter, Mr. Rice, Dr. Ellinger, and Mr. Paul Weinberger, assistant vice president, federal relations, are PELP graduates.

Ms. Craig Schilling thanked Ms. Painter and Dr. Gantz and asked if committee members had questions. Mr. Ruiz inquired about responsibility for the criteria and selection process, and Ms. Painter said that her office is responsible for selection for the President's Executive Leadership Program, in coordination with Dr. Nicholas Jones, President Killeen, the three chancellors, and the three provosts. Dr. Gantz referred to the goal of creating a diverse class and said that prior leadership experience and potential benefits from participating in the program are considered. Mr. Basta asked about participation across the universities, and Dr. Gantz said that the usual distribution for PELP is seven from Urbana, seven from Chicago, three from Springfield, and three from System-level offices. Ms. Painter said the distribution is the same for the PSLA program. Mr. Rice commented on the benefits of his experience with the President's Executive Leadership Program, and Ms. Craig Schilling remarked on the importance of leadership. She expressed appreciation for learning more details about these programs.

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 May 21, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., in Urbana.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

Ms. Craig Schilling requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Ms. Mizan, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, the meeting adjourned at 4:56 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*