

MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE, PERSONNEL, AND ETHICS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

MARCH 19, 2025

This meeting of the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics 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 1:26 p.m.

Trustee Jesse H. Ruiz, vice 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,¹ Mr. Wilbur C. Milhouse III, Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz, Mr. Ramón Cepeda; Dr. Suzet M. McKinney; Ms. Sarah C. Phalen; Ms. Ariana A. Mizan, student trustee, Urbana; Mr. Quinn S. Basta, student trustee, Chicago; and Mr. Christian Johnson, student trustee, Springfield, 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. Gutman attended via remote videoconference.

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.

Mr. Ruiz asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the minutes from the meeting that was held on January 22, 2025, and there were none. On motion of Ms. Craig Schilling, seconded by Mr. Milhouse, 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

Mr. Ruiz introduced the recommended items within the purview of this committee on the Board’s agenda at its meeting on March 20, 2025. All recommended items discussed at the meeting are on file with the secretary.

Appointments to the Faculty, Administrative/Professional Staff,
and Intercollegiate Athletic Staff

Mr. Ruiz asked Dr. Stein to comment on the recommended appointments to the faculty, administrative/professional staff, and intercollegiate athletic staff. Dr. Stein explained

that the appointments recommended in this item are thoroughly reviewed at the appropriate levels within the college, department, and unit, and he asked that members of the committee contact him with any questions.

Approve Minutes of the Board of Trustees
as the Sole Member of the Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park, LLC meeting

Mr. Ruiz stated that the meeting of the Board of Trustees as the sole member of the Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park, LLC would take place the following day, and that the Board would vote to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2024, meeting at that time. He noted that the minutes had been distributed to trustees.

Amend Operating Agreement of the University of Illinois Research Park, LLC

Mr. Ruiz asked Dr. Robert Jones to discuss the recommendation to amend the Operating Agreement of the University of Illinois Research Park, LLC. Dr. Jones stated that the Operating Agreement was last revised on May 16, 2019, and he said the proposed changes would improve operational efficiency and responsiveness to carry out the business of the Research Park. He said the Research Park is one of the largest and most effective of its kind nationwide. Dr. Jones referred to substantial changes to research parks across the country and said that amendments to the Operating Agreement are needed to create a more robust, overarching strategy that is necessary to maintain the vitality of the Research Park and continuity in a time of change.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Ruiz asked Mr. Joe Barnes, chief digital risk officer, University of Illinois System, to give a presentation on GLBA Risk Assessment and Reporting (materials on file with the secretary). Mr. Barnes stated that this report is federally required, and he gave an overview of the risk management assessment process. He gave background on the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA) and said the University is required to designate a qualified individual to oversee and implement its information security program. Mr. Barnes said the qualified individual must regularly, and at least annually, provide a written report to the Board. He discussed aspects of GLBA risk assessment, which he said include identification, assessment, analysis, remediation, and monitoring. Mr. Barnes concluded his presentation by stating this is a team effort, and he acknowledged the hard work of up to 50 people across the University System. There were no comments or questions, and Mr. Ruiz thanked Mr. Barnes for the presentation.

University of Illinois System International Strategy

Mr. Ruiz then asked Dr. Jason Lane, special advisor to the president, University of Illinois System, to provide a presentation entitled “University of Illinois System Global Engagement Strategy” (materials on file with the secretary). Dr. Lane described the University System’s commitment to expanding its global reach and thanked trustees for

their support in this mission. He referred to a responsibility to international engagement and reported on the University System's global engagement reach, stating that it is engaged in research collaborations in more than 50 countries. He said the University hosts over 20,000 international students from more than 100 countries. Dr. Lane described the University's long-standing engagement and leadership in international education, and he discussed the necessity of international engagement and advantages of the University System's multi-campus system. He stated that global engagement is part of the University's core mission, and he described the University's strategy. Dr. Lane showed a map depicting regional engagement and described purposeful partnerships, and he highlighted the Great Lakes Higher Education Consortium, the Brasillinois Initiative, and the University Academic Alliance in Taiwan. He concluded his presentation by referring to a meeting with Senator Tammy Duckworth where they discussed international strategy, and he said she stated that higher education is the hidden strength of American economic power. Dr. Lane welcomed feedback and questions from trustees.

Mr. Milhouse inquired about measures of success with external entities and processes for reporting. Dr. Lane stated that processes are being formalized, and he listed some metrics that are being considered. He also described evaluation criteria for research commitments. Mr. Milhouse and Dr. Lane then discussed connectivity and collaboration across institutions and networks, and Dr. Lane highlighted the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress being held in Chicago in June 2025. Mr. Gutman applauded these efforts and said it would be helpful to see goals for global engagement efforts. Dr.

Lane stated that he could provide examples after the meeting of goals and their alignment with the framework of the University System. Ms. Phalen asked Dr. Lane to discuss direct and indirect costs, return on investment, and funding. Dr. Lane stated that these efforts are funded by System operational funds, and he described the utilization of seed funding with partners to then secure external funds. Ms. Blackwell inquired about the level of University investment, and Dr. Lane gave examples of funding ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000, noting that funding is often matched by other parties. Mr. Cepeda and Dr. Lane reviewed the map included in the presentation, and Dr. Lane provided additional information about partnerships throughout the world, stating that the University has infrequently established a physical presence in these locations. Ms. Mizan asked Dr. Lane to respond to the impact of changes in federal policies impacting the global talent pipeline and study abroad programs, and she asked whether he anticipated shifts in the strategic direction for global engagement. Dr. Lane referred to potential curtailment of students and other individuals from certain countries coming to the United States, and he said that this is the time to double down on global engagement, actively develop partnerships, and provide opportunities. Ms. Mizan and Dr. Lane discussed the selection of locations to expand global networks, and Dr. Lane described the rationale for focusing on India and Africa.

Legislative Update

Mr. Ruiz asked Ms. Jennifer M. Creasey, assistant vice president, external and state relations, and Mr. Paul Weinberger, assistant vice president, federal relations, to give a legislative update. Mr. Weinberger referred to a series of executive orders issued since President Donald J. Trump's inauguration and discussed their impact on research funding, diversity and gender initiatives, immigration policy and enforcement, and agency operations. He then reported on the Fiscal Year 2025 and 2026 appropriations and discussed the reconciliation tool currently being used in Congress. Mr. Weinberger shared advocacy and engagement activities that have taken place since the last meeting of this committee.

Next, Ms. Creasey reported on Governor J. B. Pritzker's State of the State and Budget address and highlighted the proposed 3 percent increase in funding for public universities in Illinois, additional Monetary Award Program (MAP) funding, and the reappropriation of capital projects. She referred to a proposal for a direct admission program, which would require public universities to automatically admit qualified high school seniors, and a community college baccalaureate degree initiative, which would allow community colleges to offer four-year degrees in high-demand fields. She said the State relations staff are reviewing and commenting on bills that could impact the University, and she described efforts advocating for an equitable formula for Illinois public universities. Ms. Creasey described advocacy and engagement events and highlighted the successful University of Illinois System Day in the Capitol in Springfield.

Discussion followed regarding aspects of the direct admission program, and Ms. Creasey stated that some details are still being finalized.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no business presented under this aegis.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ruiz asked if there was new business to discuss, and there was none. He announced that the next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., in Urbana.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mr. Ruiz then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Basta, seconded by Mr. Milhouse, the meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m. There were no “nay” votes.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY A. STEIN
Secretary

JESSE H. RUIZ
Vice Chair

EILEEN B. CABLE
Special Assistant to the Secretary