

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
MAY 21, 2025

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, Heritage Hall, 1901 South First Street, Champaign, Illinois, on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, beginning at 2:18 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;¹ Mr. Quinn S. Basta, student trustee, Chicago; and Mr. Christian Johnson, voting student trustee, Springfield. Ms. Ariana A. Mizan, student trustee, Urbana, was absent. Mr. Wilbur C. Milhouse III, Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz, and Dr. Bryan S. Traubert 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. 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

¹ Mr. Gutman attended via remote videoconference.

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 recognized the student trustees who will be serving on the Board next year and said Ms. Mizan and Mr. Basta will be returning to serve second terms. She welcomed Mr. Joe Humphrey, who will be representing the University of Illinois Springfield, and she said Mr. Johnson will be missed. Mr. Johnson thanked Ms. Craig Schilling and said serving on the Board has been a phenomenal experience.

Ms. Craig Schilling asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes of the committee meeting held March 19, 2025. There were none. On motion of Mr. Basta, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, 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 MAY 21, 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 May 21, 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 Revisions to the University of Illinois System Residency Status Policy

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. Nicholas Jones to discuss the recommendation to approve revisions to the University of Illinois System Residency Status Policy. Dr. Jones stated that this policy sets forth criteria for students to possess in-state residency status for the purposes of admission and tuition assessment, and he said it was reviewed in 1997 and 2021. He added that several federal and State laws regarding in-state tuition have been enacted or amended in recent years, necessitating updates to the policy and prompting a reevaluation of the policy's structure to distinguish between policy components and operational rules. Dr. Jones said that under the current policy, students may be eligible for in-state tuition by demonstrating residency based on domicile in Illinois or by meeting alternative measures, and he said those guidelines would not change and remain the purview of the Board. He said the proposed revision of the policy is designed to retain the policy framework and guidelines to promote institutional goals,

recognize the University's status as a state tax-assisted institution by providing preferential tuition to Illinois residents and other qualifying individuals, and comply with applicable law. Dr. Jones said it is also designed to separate the rules, factors, and procedures used to operationalize the policy from the policy itself. He said the revised policy includes the eligibility criteria to qualify for in-state tuition but authorizes the president of the University of Illinois System or designee, in consultation with the universities, to establish and amend the rules to effectively implement the revised policy, including factors and procedures to determine whether an individual meets the eligibility criteria. Dr. Jones said this flexibility will allow for the president or designee to make timely adjustments and needed clarification to the rules, factors, and procedures at the System and university levels to effectively implement the policy, especially when State or federal law changes. He told the committee that there have been 65 appeals regarding residency in recent years, and that five or six were overturned each year. He said 80 percent of the appeals are from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and 20 percent are from the University of Illinois Chicago.

Approve Transportation Fee, Chicago, Academic Year 2025-2026

Dr. Nicholas Jones then provided information on the recommendation to approve transportation fees at the University of Illinois Chicago for Academic Year 2025-2026 and said this would include the addition of an optional U-Pass+ to provide access to Metra commuter train service for University of Illinois Chicago students. He said the

optional Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) U-Pass would also continue to be available.

Dr. Jones stated that the cost of the U-Pass+, which includes ridership on the CTA and Metra, would be \$379 per semester, and he said students at the College of Medicine would pay a slightly higher cost for U-Pass and U-Pass+ due to their academic calendar. He recognized Mr. Mohammed A. Haq, former student trustee, for championing the extension to U-Pass+.

Appoint Fellows to the Center for Advanced Study, Urbana;
and Appoint Associates to the Center for Advanced Study, Urbana

Next, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. John Coleman, executive vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, to report on the recommendations to appoint fellows and associates to the Center for Advanced Study at Urbana. Dr. Coleman explained that such appointments provide for one semester of release time from teaching for self-initiated scholarly study. He said associates and fellows are selected in an annual competition. Dr. Coleman reported that untenured faculty are appointed as fellows and tenured faculty are appointed as associates. Dr. Coleman said that this recommendation would appoint 12 faculty members, six of whom are tenured and six who are untenured.

Appoint Interim Dean, School of Information Sciences, Urbana

Dr. Coleman then discussed the recommendation to appoint Dr. Emily Joyce Magdelyn Knox, presently professor, School of Information Sciences, as interim dean, School of Information Sciences. He described Dr. Knox's background, experience, and area of

research and said she succeeds Dr. Eunice E. Santos, who has returned to the faculty after serving as dean. Dr. Coleman said a search for the next permanent dean is expected to launch in Spring 2026.

Establish the Master of Veterinary Science in Applied Veterinary Sciences,
College of Veterinary Medicine and the Graduate College, Urbana

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Coleman to report on recommendations to establish three new degrees at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Coleman first discussed the recommendation to establish the Master of Veterinary Science in Applied Veterinary Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Graduate College and said this online program would address significant knowledge gaps for veterinary professionals. He said enrollment is estimated to be 20 students in the first year and 100 when fully implemented. Dr. Coleman stated that the College of Veterinary Medicine's i-Learning Team would support the program using existing faculty, staff, and resources.

Establish the Master of Science in Child Health, College of Agricultural,
Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

Dr. Coleman then shared information regarding the recommendation to establish the Master of Science in Child Health in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College and said the degree would prepare child life specialists, who are professionals who support children and families through medical challenges. He said the degree is designed to meet the certification requirements of the Association of Child Life Professionals. Dr. Coleman stated that estimated

enrollment is five students in year one and 10 students when fully implemented, and he said that courses would be taught by existing faculty plus one newly hired faculty member, with tuition revenue supporting the cost of these positions. He said there would be no additional impact on departmental resources.

Establish the Bachelor of Liberal Studies in Liberal Studies,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

Dr. Coleman reported on the recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Liberal Studies in Liberal Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and said this online asynchronous degree is designed around the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) career competencies and would offer a flexible degree completion path for the more than 40 million adults in the United States who have some college credit but do not have a bachelor's degree. He shared information about the curriculum and said estimated enrollment in the first year would be 50 students, growing to 200 when fully implemented. Dr. Coleman stated that this degree program would be supported by the provost's Investment for Growth (IFG) Program, and he said this degree would serve both adult learners as well as existing university students through co-enrollment. He referred to strong support for the program across the university.

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Coleman if this degree would be offered online, and he confirmed that it would be, noting that the program is expected to attract people from Illinois and beyond. Ms. Craig Schilling commended Dr. Coleman for creating a program focusing on degree completion, and Dr. Coleman remarked on efforts within the college to establish such a program, adding that it is a testament to doing what

is right and good for society. Ms. Craig Schilling commented that this program serves the needs of the state, and Dr. Coleman stated that it provides an alternative to a traditional transfer degree program. He said this program is designed to accommodate students where they are, regardless of time away from school and whether or not they completed an associate's degree.

Appoint Faculty Fellows to the Institute for the Humanities,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. Karen Colley, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, University of Illinois Chicago, to discuss the recommendation to appoint faculty fellows to the Institute for the Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago. Dr. Colley stated that fellows are selected in a competitive process. She said they are full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty in the humanities and related disciplines and are released from all formal teaching and administrative obligations for the fellowship period so they can pursue their scholarship and participate in scholarly activities supported by the institute. Dr. Colley said that these faculty members come from several departments within the college.

Establish the Bachelor of Science in Inclusive and Special Education,
College of Education, Chicago

Dr. Colley then reported on the recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Science in Inclusive and Special Education in the College of Education, Chicago. She stated that this degree focuses on the intersection of inclusion and special education and will prepare

special education teachers to work effectively with their general education colleagues to develop and implement individualized education programs that prepare students with disabilities for success in the general education classroom. Dr. Colley said successful completion of the program leads to a professional educator license awarded by the Illinois State Board of Education. She stated that no additional investment beyond tuition revenue will be required, and existing faculty and staff are able to support the program.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the age of students who would be served by educators who received this degree. Dr. Lisa Cushing, associate professor, special education, University of Illinois Chicago, stated that the initial license prepares educators to work with students ranging in age from 5 through 22.

Establish the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Philosophy,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

Next, Dr. Colley provided information regarding the recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois Chicago. She said the proposed degree builds on an established model that combines core computer science courses with a selection of courses from a discipline within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dr. Colley said the degree will supplement computer science training with a better understanding of the foundations of computing and an exposure to ethical frameworks that will prepare students to analyze and address ethical issues arising out of computing technology. She told the committee that as computing technology becomes more important to the

economy, there is a growing demand for those who have a solid background in computer science, alongside the ability to think critically about whether the use of these technologies is ethical. Dr. Colley said graduates of this program will be particularly well equipped in addressing the social and ethical issues related to artificial intelligence and privacy concerns. She stated that the program will not require additional funds, facilities, technology, faculty, or staff, as most of the courses in the program are already offered.

Rename, Reorganize, and Revise the Master of Science in Public Health, Concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, School of Public Health and the Graduate College, Chicago; and Rename, Reorganize, and Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health, Concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, School of Public Health and the Graduate College, Chicago

Next, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Robert A. Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago, to discuss the recommendations to rename, reorganize, and revise the Master of Science in Public Health, concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health, concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, both in the School of Public Health and the Graduate College at the University of Illinois Chicago. Dr. Barish said this recommendation would revise and reorganize the existing concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences (EOHS) within the MS in Public Health and would rename the program as the Master of Science in Environmental Health. He said it would also convert two existing secondary concentrations into this new degree. Dr. Barish said these recommendations would also revise and reorganize the existing concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences within the PhD program in Public

Health while renaming the program as the Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Health. He said the program would receive only minor modifications as required by the accrediting body, and he told the committee the new degrees would be eligible for designation as STEM programs, which could provide increased opportunity for accessing external funding and attracting prospective students who prioritize the STEM designation. Dr. Barish said no new funding is required in implementing these changes, and all appropriate approvals have been obtained.

Appoint Dean, College of Health, Science, and Technology, Springfield

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. Brandon Schwab, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, University of Illinois Springfield, to report on the recommendation to appoint Dr. J. Travis Bland, as dean of the College of Health, Science, and Technology at the University of Illinois Springfield. Dr. Schwab described Dr. Bland's background and experience and said he succeeds Dr. Mark Anderson, who served as interim dean through June 30, 2023. Mr. Johnson shared his positive experience working with Dr. Bland and referred to his ideas and ambition to grow the college.

Appoint Interim Dean, College of Public Affairs and Education, Springfield

Dr. Schwab then discussed the recommendation to appoint Dr. Miriam Wallace as interim dean of the College of Public Affairs and Education at the University of Illinois Springfield. He described Dr. Wallace's qualifications and said she currently serves as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, noting that she will continue

to serve in that role. He said she succeeds Dr. Ty Dooley, who has served as interim dean July 1, 2024, and is returning to the faculty on a full-time basis.

Establish the Master of Business Administration in Management Science,
College of Business and Management, Springfield

Dr. Schwab reported on the recommendation to establish the Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Management Science in the College of Business and Management at the University of Illinois Springfield and said this is a repackaging of the current MBA curriculum, stating that it would create a distinct degree that identifies the quantitative nature of the curriculum and its STEM focus. He added that it separates the MBA in Management Science from the broader MBA program to include the certificate programs that carry STEM-designated coursework related to management science. Dr. Schwab said it would be offered in face-to-face and online delivery modes. He referred to plans to potentially expand this degree to include additional existing data analytic focus certificates, such as accounting analytics and cybersecurity management. Dr. Schwab said no new funds are required, and all classes are currently offered and taught by existing faculty.

Establish the Bachelor of Science in Marketing,
College of Business and Management, Springfield

Lastly, Dr. Schwab provided information regarding the recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Science in Marketing in the College of Business and Management at the University of Illinois Springfield. He said this proposed degree is a repackaging of the

Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) with a concentration in marketing and said it creates a distinctive degree that identifies the quantitative nature of the curriculum and its STEM focus. He told the committee this program would be offered in both face-to-face and online modalities. He said no new funds are required as all classes are currently offered and taught by existing faculty.

Mr. Johnson asked if there are plans to repackage other concentrations in the BBA programs as degrees. Dr. Jorge Villegas, associate dean of the College of Business and Management, responded and said that decision will depend on the success of the Bachelor of Science in Marketing, noting that there is high demand for that program.

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

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 July 16, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., in Chicago.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Ms. Craig Schilling requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Ms. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Basta, the meeting adjourned at 3:28 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