

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

NOVEMBER 12, 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, November 12, 2025, beginning at 4:12 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; Dr. Bryan S. Traubert; Ms. Ariana A. Mizan, voting student trustee, Urbana; Mr. Quinn S. Basta, student trustee, Chicago; Mr. Joe Humphrey, student trustee, Springfield. Mr. Joseph Gutman was absent. Ms. Sarah C. Phalen and Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz attended as guests.

Also present were Mr. Howard S. Engle, treasurer; President Timothy L. Killeen; Dr. Nicholas P. Jones, executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Charles L. Isbell Jr., 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 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; 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 noted that the agenda for this meeting was adjusted to include items previously posted on the agenda of the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee. Ms. Craig Schilling said that Dr. Stein added these items to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting agenda on Monday, November 10, and public notice was reissued.

Ms. Craig Schilling asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes of the committee meeting held September 17, 2025. There were none. On motion of Mr. Humphrey, 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 NOVEMBER 13, 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 (materials on file with the secretary). 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 Interim University of Illinois System Policy
on Integrity in Research and Scholarly Activities**

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Jones to present the recommendation to approve an interim University of Illinois System Policy on Integrity in Research and Scholarly Activities. Dr. Jones explained that he had convened a System-wide committee in late 2024 with representation from all three universities and support from Dr. Sarah M. Zehr Gantz, associate vice president for academic initiatives and policies, to review and update the existing System Policy on Integrity in Research and Publication.

Dr. Jones reported that the review was undertaken ahead of the usual five-year cycle in response to a final rule issued in 2024 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Research Integrity (ORI), which becomes effective January 1, 2026. He noted that ORI's implementation guidance was released only recently, requiring the committee to work quickly to incorporate mandated updates. Dr. Jones said the committee delivered its recommendations in September, which have been shared with the University Senates Conference and the three university senates for their review and feedback. Dr. Jones emphasized that many of the proposed changes are required by ORI to maintain eligibility for federal funding and that all required revisions must be in place by January 1, 2026. He said that to meet that deadline, an interim policy effective January 1, 2026, was being recommended. He said that after the shared

governance review has been completed, the final version of the revised policy will be brought to the Board for formal approval and will replace the interim policy.

Appoint Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, Urbana

Next, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Isbell to discuss the recommendation to appoint a senior vice chancellor for finance and administration at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Isbell indicated he would be discussing three vice chancellor appointments that would be part of an administrative reorganization at the university. He explained that the recommendations are intended to position the university for the evolving landscape of higher education and to align central administrative units with best practices observed among peer institutions. Dr. Isbell gave an overview of the proposed reorganization and said most units currently housed within the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Operations would be consolidated into an expanded Office for Finance and Administration, creating more integrated oversight of administrative and financial functions. He noted that this realignment is consistent with structures at other Big Ten and Association of American Universities (AAU) institutions and would result in a net reduction of one vice chancellor reporting directly to the chancellor. This recommendation would appoint Dr. Aimee Susan Heeter, currently vice chancellor for finance, as senior vice chancellor for finance and administration.

Appoint Interim Vice Chancellor for Access, Civil Rights, and Community, Urbana

Dr. Isbell stated that as part of the restructuring of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Dr. Gioconda Guerra Pérez, currently serving as interim vice chancellor for diversity, equity, and inclusion designate, would be recommended to serve as interim vice chancellor for access, civil rights, and community. Dr. Isbell said the title was intended to better reflect the work of that office in education, research, employment, and community engagement. He indicated that the name of the office would be updated at the beginning of the next calendar year to align with its mission and activities.

Appoint Chief of Staff and Vice Chancellor for Administrative Strategy, Urbana

Dr. Isbell then reported on the recommendation to appoint Ms. Robin Neal Kaler, currently associate chancellor for strategic communications and marketing, Urbana, as chief of staff and vice chancellor for administrative strategy. Dr. Isbell stated that the change was designed to strengthen administrative capacity and strategic alignment across the university. He emphasized that the underlying responsibilities of the affected offices would not change substantially and that the new structure would more accurately reflect existing functions and provide a stronger foundation for faculty, staff, and students as the university pursues its strategic goals.

Ms. Mizan asked Dr. Isbell to discuss the reaction from students and faculty to these proposed changes. Dr. Isbell reported minimal reaction overall, noting that many of the offices are not widely visible to the campus community. He said the proposed changes to the Office for Access, Civil Rights, and Community had been the subject of

consultation with the office leadership and academic units. He reported no substantive questions at the recent senate meeting and no formal comments following the campuswide announcement regarding these changes. Dr. Isbell emphasized that the underlying work is not changing, and Ms. Craig Schilling added that she had received a positive comment from a close observer of the university who supported the name change.

Appoint Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Miranda to report on the recommendation to appoint Ms. Sharron Evans, currently associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students at Iowa State University, as the vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of Illinois Chicago. Dr. Miranda described Ms. Evans' background and experience, noting that she is originally from Joliet and has prior professional experience in Chicago. Dr. Miranda expressed enthusiasm for Ms. Evans' appointment.

Appoint Vice Chancellor for Engagement, Chicago

Dr. Miranda then discussed the recommendation to appoint Dr. Lionel E. Allen Jr., currently interim vice chancellor for equity and diversity designate, as the vice chancellor for engagement. Dr. Miranda prefaced her remarks by referring to a reevaluation and reorganization of the role and responsibilities of the vice chancellor for innovation and strategic partnerships, which had encompassed a wide range of unrelated responsibilities.

She said that role has now been dissolved, and its functions were reassigned to areas deemed more appropriate. Dr. Miranda described the advantages of this reorganization, which she said resulted in the reduction in one net vice chancellor position at the university.

Dr. Miranda then discussed the role of vice chancellor for engagement, which she said is designed to strengthen both internal and external connections. She said this role would focus on fostering campus culture, diversity, inclusion, and a sense of belonging while deepening the university's partnerships with community organizations and reflecting the university's commitment to being "of the community" rather than "in the community." Dr. Miranda described the responsibilities of the vice chancellor for engagement and said Dr. Allen is being recommended to serve in this role. She provided information about his background and experience, stating that he is a UIC alum and faculty member who is known for his contributions to Chicago Public Schools, his respected presence on campus, and his ability to navigate complex situations with grace and composure.

Appoint Interim G. Stephen Irwin Dean, College of Medicine, Chicago

Next, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Robert A. Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago, to discuss two leadership appointments, beginning with the recommendation to appoint Dr. Enrico Benedetti, presently Warren H. Cole Chair in Surgery, professor and head, Department of Surgery; associate director of transplant surgery, Department of Surgery; and physician surgeon, Department of Surgery, as interim G. Stephen Irwin

Dean, College of Medicine. Dr. Barish described Dr. Benedetti's background and experience, said he is a leader in organ transplantation and robotic-assisted surgical techniques, and highlighted his scholarship.

**Appoint Interim Chief Executive Officer,
University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics, Chicago**

Dr. Barish then discussed the recommendation to appoint Mr. Scott Jones, presently chief operating officer, University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics, as interim chief executive officer, University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics. Dr. Barish described Mr. Jones' background and experience and said he brings extensive experience in managing nonprofit teaching health systems and private specialty hospital systems. He said that since joining UI Health in 2019, he had led several important initiatives and led substantial efforts in quality improvement. He said that Mr. Jones will continue serving in his role as chief operating officer while serving as interim CEO.

Dr. Barish noted that he and Dr. Miranda sought advice on both interim appointments from hospital leadership, the College of Medicine, and clinical department heads, along with other faculty and hospital leaders.

**Establish the Social and Behavioral Sciences Institute as a Permanent Institute,
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, Urbana**

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. John Coleman, executive vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, to discuss the recommendation to establish the Social and Behavioral Sciences Institute as a permanent

institute in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation. Dr. Coleman gave a history of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Institute (SBSI), which originated as an initiative in 2017. He said the SBSI has developed and built an interdisciplinary campus community and grown a more formal structure and staffing. Dr. Coleman said the institute aims to maximize the impact of social and behavioral science research through evidence-based public engagement and partnerships that support the university's land-grant mission. He said that current programming includes small grant awards, research development services, and advanced methodology workshops and has more than 200 faculty affiliates across all 14 colleges and schools at the university. Dr. Coleman said that existing space in the National Center for Supercomputing Applications will house the institute, with no additional facilities or resources required.

Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Sports Media, College of Media, Urbana

Dr. Coleman then discussed the recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Arts in Sports Media in the College of Media at Urbana. He said this interdisciplinary program would draw coursework from the College of Media's departments of Advertising, Journalism, and Media and Cinema Studies, as well as electives from the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism in the College of Applied Health Sciences. Dr. Coleman told the committee that enrollment is projected at 25 students in the first year, growing to 100 students by year five. He said the program responds to the dynamic evolution of sports media and that the curriculum would utilize existing courses and faculty, with no

immediate impact on teaching loads or facilities. He said that tuition revenue would support faculty growth in the event that enrollment exceeds projections.

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

PRESENTATION

Legislative Update

Ms. Craig Schilling 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. Ms. Creasey highlighted the annual Leadership State Tour, the fall veto session, and a reception for alumni, legislators, and civic leaders in Chicago. She referred to advocacy events and discussed efforts in the upcoming year, which she said would focus on the State appropriation, regulatory reforms, and monitoring of legislation that could alter benefits for employees who are Tier II SURS members. Ms. Creasey concluded by emphasizing the importance of continued advocacy and collaboration, noting that 2026 would present both challenges and opportunities. She expressed gratitude to the Board for its support. Ms. Craig Schilling expressed appreciation for the Leadership State Tour and said that it provides an opportunity to tell the University of Illinois story that could not be told any other way.

The Board then heard a presentation from Mr. Weinberger, who provided an update on federal relations. Mr. Weinberger began by noting positive developments regarding the federal government's reopening. He referred to the cancellation of the

University's annual Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C., due to the federal government shutdown and said that despite the cancellation, the University hosted a successful reception that featured remarks from President Killeen and Dr. Miranda. Mr. Weinberger told the committee that planning is underway for the next Advocacy Day, scheduled for April 2026. He cautioned that the shutdown would have lingering impacts and that recovery could take several weeks.

Mr. Weinberger then highlighted several executive actions, including a new proposed \$100,000 fee for H-1B visas and a proposed expiration date for international students and exchange visitor visas. He said the University filed comments in opposition, citing significant administrative burdens and potential deterrence for international students. Mr. Weinberger also discussed concerns regarding the Department of Education's narrow definition of "professional students," which he said may impact students pursuing careers in social work, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and other high-demand fields due to borrowing limits. In addition, Mr. Weinberger stated that some regulatory proposals could have significant implications for universities, and he said that further updates would be provided in January.

The University of Illinois Residential Experience – A Perspective from All Three Universities

Mr. Craig Schilling invited Dr. Jones; Ms. Alma Sealine, assistant vice chancellor for auxiliary, health, and wellbeing, and executive director of university housing, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Dr. Keith Ellis, executive director, campus housing, University of Illinois Chicago; and Ms. Melissa Beisel, director, residence life,

University of Illinois Springfield, to give a presentation on the University of Illinois residential experience. Dr. Jones introduced the presentation and asked Dr. Ellis, Ms. Beisel, and Ms. Sealine to discuss the residential experience and the ways in which the universities meet demand and plan for the future.

Dr. Ellis gave an overview of campus housing at Chicago, noting that the residential population has grown and is nearing capacity with a residential population of 2,850 students. He noted there is no live-on campus requirement for first-time attending undergraduates. Dr. Ellis gave examples of residential engagement and curricular approach activities and reported on high levels of feelings of connectedness and belonging. He discussed plans for the future, many of which focused on increasing connection and services while being cognizant of affordability and accessibility concerns. He also referred to significant facility needs.

Ms. Beisel then discussed residence life at Springfield and said 816 residents are served across several types of residences and living-learning communities. She said the university has a residency requirement that all freshman and sophomore students live on campus, and she said that living on campus drives student success. Ms. Beisel shared statistics reflecting the high level of student involvement and leadership among students who live on campus, and she presented a chart depicting levels of occupancy across the campus. She discussed plans for the future and referred to efforts to foster a sense of belonging while maintaining affordable and high-quality facilities. Ms. Beisel shared goals for some specific residences and expanding affiliate housing partnerships could support occupancy growth.

Ms. Sealine then gave an overview of university housing at Urbana, which she said houses 11,000 residents across 26 residence halls and three apartment communities. She said there is a requirement to live on campus for all first-time attending undergraduates, and she described the benefits for students of this requirement, stating that a high majority of students in university housing reported a feeling of belonging. She shared information about residential curriculum opportunities. Ms. Sealine then reported on occupancy and first-year enrollment and presented a graph that showed a potential shortage of housing in the near future. She told the committee that there were 1,200 students on the waitlist for housing that fall. Ms. Sealine discussed plans for the future and said this would include collaborating with university partners on enrollment strategy and determining occupancy growth models. She also discussed efforts to foster belonging, implementing facility upgrades, and participating in continuous financial review.

The presentation concluded, which was followed by a round of applause. Ms. Mizan and Ms. Sealine discussed resources for students who were unable to secure university housing. Mr. Ruiz asked about private investment in student housing, which he said appears prevalent at other universities. Ms. Sealine stated that most private investors build apartments for the off-campus market, and she said these apartments are not ideal for first- and second-year students. Dr. Ellis commented on the high cost of apartments in Chicago, particularly in the West Loop neighborhood, and Dr. Miranda referred to the exploration of public-private partnerships to possibly expand availability of housing for students. Discussion followed regarding enrollment projections at Urbana. Mr. Basta

inquired about investment in the student experience for those residing in university housing at Chicago, and Dr. Ellis described efforts by resident advisors to connect with students and foster engagement, belonging, and self-awareness. He said students who live in university housing want to return to university housing for another year, and he described a variety of benefits of living on campus. Dr. Miranda asked Mr. Basta to describe his initiative to build community around athletic programs at the University of Illinois Chicago, which he indicated was intended to support athletics at the university while creating a space where students would feel welcomed and involved. President Killeen asked Dr. Ellis to comment on the Academic and Residential Complex at the University of Illinois Chicago, and Dr. Ellis indicated that the students who live there report a high level of satisfaction. He said that while it is a high demand facility, the high cost is a deterrent for some students. Ms. Craig Schilling thanked Dr. Ellis, Ms. Beisel, and Ms. Sealine for the presentation.

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 January 14, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., in Chicago.¹

¹ The schedule for the meeting was changed to 3:15 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Ms. Craig Schilling requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Ms. Mizan, seconded by Mr. Basta, the meeting adjourned at 5:17 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