MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

July 15, 2026

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, Illinois Ballroom, 1900 South First Street, Champaign, Illinois, on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, beginning at 3:27 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. Gabrielle Stewart, student trustee, Urbana; Ms. Wazeera Shekoni, voting student trustee, Chicago; and Ms. Minnah Saleh, student trustee, Springfield. Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz and Mr. Wilbur C. Milhouse III 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); 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 introduced the new student trustees and welcomed them to the Board. She reflected on the important perspectives that student trustees bring to Board deliberations.

Ms. Craig Schilling asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes of the committee meeting held May 20, 2026. There were none. On motion of Mr. Gutman, seconded by Dr. Traubert, 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 16, 2026

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 16, 2026. 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 (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.

Promotions in Academic Rank and Change in Tenure, 2026-2027

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Jones to report on the recommendation concerning promotions in academic rank and awards of tenure for the 2026-2027 academic year. Dr. Jones emphasized that promotion and tenure decisions are among the most significant academic actions undertaken by the University and result from formal rigorous and well-established procedures that include departmental, college, campus, and peer evaluations. Dr. Jones reported that 335 faculty members across the University System were being recommended for promotion and tenure during the current cycle, compared with 373 in the previous year. He explained that the modest decline reflected a return to normal promotion levels following temporary fluctuations related to a COVID-19 pandemic-era backlog. He stated that 160 faculty members were recommended for promotion and tenure at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; 158 faculty at the University of Illinois Chicago; and 17 at the University of Illinois Springfield. Dr. Jones also summarized the recommendations by rank and tenure status. No questions were raised by committee members.

Appoint Dean, School of Social Work, Urbana

Next, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. John Coleman, executive vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, to present a recommendation to appoint Dr. Lisa Reyes Mason as dean of the School of Social Work. Dr. Coleman reported that Dr. Mason currently serves as professor, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver, Colorado, and is a nationally recognized scholar whose work focuses on reducing inequities, advancing environmental justice, and strengthening connections among research, policy, and practice. Dr. Coleman highlighted Dr. Mason's extensive leadership experience, including service as interim dean of the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver, where she oversaw a $50.0 million annual budget, maintained enrollment stability during fiscal constraints, strengthened organizational culture, and advanced strategic priorities. He referenced her experience in academic innovation and her strong support among stakeholders throughout the search process. Dr. Coleman stated that Dr. Mason emerged as the leading candidate through a national search and would succeed Dr. Benjamin James Lough, who would be returning to the faculty.

Appoint Dean, School of Labor and Employment Relations, Urbana

Dr. Coleman then discussed a recommendation to appoint Dr. Simon Lloyd D. Restubog as dean of the School of Labor and Employment Relations. Dr. Coleman stated that Dr. Restubog has served as interim dean since July 2024 and has led several initiatives designed to strengthen the school's competitiveness and future growth. He stated that Dr.

Restubog is an internationally recognized scholar whose research has enhanced the school's reputation nationally and internationally. Dr. Coleman told the committee that Dr. Restubog emerged as the top candidate following a national search and would succeed Dr. Ingrid Smithy Fulmer.

Appoint Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Miranda to report on the recommendation to appoint Dr. Kathryn Chval as interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Dr. Miranda stated that a candidate had not yet been identified from the ongoing search for a new permanent provost, and she indicated that the interim appointment would provide leadership continuity while allowing additional time for the search process. Dr. Miranda highlighted Dr. Chval's long-standing connection to the university as a three-time graduate of the institution, as well as her distinguished service as dean of the College of Education. She emphasized Dr. Chval's national reputation in the field of education, her success addressing complex issues within the college, and her deep commitment to the university's mission.

Appoint Acting Dean, College of Education, Chicago

Dr. Miranda then presented the recommendation to appoint Dr. Marc A. VanOverbeke, currently serving as associate professor of educational policy studies, as acting dean of the College of Education. She explained that the appointment was necessitated by Dr. Chval's elevation to the interim provost position, and she noted that Dr. Karen J. Colley, former provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, Chicago, had led a comprehensive consultation process, including faculty input and an anonymous survey, during which Dr. VanOverbeke emerged as the top choice to serve in this role. Dr. Miranda described Dr. VanOverbeke's experience as a long-time associate dean and former acting dean and said he has a strong understanding of the university's mission and the college's important partnerships with educational institutions throughout the Chicago region.

Appoint Dean, Honors College, Chicago

Dr. Miranda then discussed the recommendation to appoint Dr. Rosilie Hernández as dean of the Honors College. She reported that Dr. Hernández, currently serving as professor in the Department of Spanish and Hispanic Studies and former associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, emerged as the strongest candidate from an internal search due to her compelling vision for the Honors College and its role within the university, higher education, and the City of Chicago. Dr. Miranda referred to Dr. Hernández's leadership and service during the search for the vice chancellor for student affairs, and she said Dr. Hernández would succeed Dr. Ralph Keen, who was stepping down to return to the faculty.

Establish the Master of Science in Structural Engineering,
College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Chicago

Next, Dr. Miranda reported on a recommendation to establish a Master of Science in Structural Engineering in the College of Engineering and the Graduate College. She explained that structural engineering is a specialized discipline that focuses on the design and analysis of buildings, bridges, and other structures, and she said the degree responds to significant workforce demand. Dr. Miranda stated that the university already possesses the faculty expertise and course offerings necessary to support the program. She said additional faculty hires may be needed if enrollment reaches projected levels, which would be supported by program-generated revenue.

Ms. Shekoni asked about admissions requirements and whether specific undergraduate majors or prerequisite coursework would be required. Dr. Miranda asked Dr. Amid Khodadoust, associate professor, environmental engineering, and director of the environmental engineering program, College of Engineering, Chicago, explained that while the program is specialized, students with backgrounds in various STEM disciplines could be admitted. He said some students may be required to complete deficiency coursework to establish the necessary academic foundation before beginning graduate-level structural engineering studies.

Establish the Master of Science in Medical Science, College of Medicine, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. Robert A. Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago, to discuss a recommendation to establish the Master of Science in Medical Science in the College of Medicine, Chicago. Dr. Barish explained that the Master of Science in Medical Science would be awarded to students who complete the first two years of medical school coursework but are unable to pass Step 1 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) or are not able or willing to complete the clinical phase. He said the proposed degree would provide an exit alternative for students that recognizes the 72 credit hours of rigorous work students have already completed and would provide graduates with credentials useful for careers in research, pharmaceutical development, sales, teaching, and related fields. Dr. Barish emphasized that implementation would require no new funding. Dr. Traubert inquired about the number of anticipated graduates, and Dr. Barish estimated that approximately 1 to 3 percent of medical students would potentially qualify for the degree. Dr. Heather M. Prendergast, vice dean for clinical affairs, University of Illinois College of Medicine, University of Illinois Chicago, added that the proposal is comparable to the practice of awarding terminal master's degrees to students who complete substantial portions of doctoral programs but do not earn the terminal doctorate.

Appoint Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Springfield

Lastly, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Gooch to present a recommendation to appoint Dr. Steven Johnson Jr. as interim vice chancellor for student affairs. Dr. Gooch stated that Dr. Johnson had served as associate vice chancellor for student engagement since March 2025 and had already assumed many vice chancellor responsibilities during leadership transitions and temporary absences. She highlighted Dr. Johnson's demonstrated leadership, strategic thinking, professionalism, and commitment to student success and noted his extensive experience in student affairs, organizational effectiveness, student engagement, and inclusive excellence. Dr. Gooch referred to his success in building partnerships across institutional divisions and said this appointment would provide continuity and stability during the transition following the departure of Dr. Jamarco Clark, who served as vice chancellor for student affairs from June 2023 through June 2026.

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 September 16, 2026, in Champaign.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Ms. Craig Schilling requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Gutman, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, the meeting adjourned at 4:14 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