

MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

May 20, 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, May 20, 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. Ariana A. Mizan, voting student trustee, Urbana; Mr. Quinn S. Basta, student trustee, Chicago; Mr. Joe Humphrey, student trustee, Springfield. Mr. Jesse H. Ruiz attended as a guest.

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; 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 commented on the energizing experience of attending Commencement ceremonies and welcomed the newly elected student trustees who will begin their terms in July. She asked if there were questions or corrections regarding the minutes of the committee meeting held March 18, 2026. There were none. On motion of Mr. Gutman, 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 MAY 21, 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 May 21, 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.

Establish the Department of Internal Medicine, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana; Establish the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana; Establish the Department of Psychiatry, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana; Establish the Department of Family Medicine, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. John Coleman, executive vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, to discuss four recommendations to establish new departments within the Carle Illinois College of Medicine. Dr. Coleman stated that these would include the Department of Internal Medicine, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Department of Psychiatry, and the Department of Family Medicine. He reported that these changes would be part of an ongoing restructuring intended to improve organizational scale, enhance faculty collaboration, and strengthen recruitment by aligning with disciplinary identities. Dr. Coleman said no additional resources or changes to instructional capacity were required.

Establish the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Urbana

Dr. Coleman then reported on the recommendation to establish the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Urbana. He said this would elevate the Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications program to departmental

status. Dr. Coleman emphasized the program's growth, the need for administrative efficiency, and the importance of providing a primary academic home for faculty and tenure processes.

Establish the Bachelor of Science in Consumer Economics and Finance,
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Urbana;
Establish the Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics and Policy,
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Urbana;
Establish the Bachelor of Science in Financial Planning, College of Agricultural,
Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Urbana; Establish the Bachelor of Science in
Food and Agribusiness Management, College of Agricultural, Consumer and
Environmental Sciences, Urbana; Establish the Bachelor of Science in Public Policy and
Law, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Urbana

Dr. Coleman then discussed recommendations to establish five new degree programs in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Urbana. He said these would include the Bachelor of Science in Consumer Economics and Finance; the Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics and Policy; the Bachelor of Science in Financial Planning; the Bachelor of Science in Food and Agribusiness Management; and the Bachelor of Science in Public Policy and Law. Dr. Coleman said these programs reorganized existing concentrations into stand-alone majors to better meet student demand and workforce needs. He said all courses were already supported by existing faculty and infrastructure.

Establish the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in
Economics + Data Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana;
Establish the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in History + Data Science,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana; Establish the Bachelor of Science in
Liberal Arts and Sciences in Linguistics + Data Science, College of Liberal Arts and
Sciences, Urbana; Establish the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in
Mathematics + Data Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

Next, Dr. Coleman reported on the recommendations to establish four new “X + DS” degree programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana. He said these would include the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Economics + Data Science; the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in History + Data Science; the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Linguistics + Data Science; and the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Mathematics + Data Science. Dr. Coleman said these new interdisciplinary programs combine traditional disciplines with data science and expand the university’s broader initiative to integrate quantitative skills across fields of study.

Ms. Craig Schilling thanked Dr. Coleman for his presentation of the recommended degree programs. She expressed appreciation for the recommendation to establish the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications, and she referenced her own experience as a student in agriculture communications when it was not yet a formal department. She recognized the efforts of Dr. Germán Bollero, dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Urbana, for moving this forward.

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

Ms. Craig Schilling then asked Dr. Karen J. 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. She noted that this would be Dr. Colley's last meeting of the committee. Dr. Colley reported on the recommendation and 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 these faculty members come from several departments within the college.

Establish the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences,
Major in Integrated Data Analytics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

Dr. Colley then provided information regarding the recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences, major in Integrated Data Analytics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago. Dr. Colley highlighted a gap in existing offerings, stating that while students have several options to pursue studies in data science, mathematics, or statistics, and social sciences, there is no program that fully integrates these applied skills and orientations, leaving students to pick between substantive areas of interest and highly desirable quantitative skills, or to study the two in parallel, without intersection. She said the proposed new major in Integrated Data Analytics aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of data and data analysis within broader social contexts. Dr. Colley said that graduates will be well positioned to pursue careers as data scientists, data administrators, analysts, project managers, and user experience professionals, and she told the committee that no additional resources will be required for this major.

Ms. Craig Schilling thanked Dr. Colley for her insight, collaboration, and years of work in representing students, faculty, and the basic mission of the universities. Dr. Miranda remarked on the critical role of provost and the qualities needed to be successful in that role. She thanked Dr. Colley for her commitment of time, energy, and emotion. Dr. Miranda said Dr. Colley is owed an enormous debt of gratitude, and she stated that asking Dr. Colley to be the provost at UIC was the single best decision she has made as chancellor.

Rename the Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences,
College of Applied Health Sciences, Chicago

Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Robert A. Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago, to discuss a recommendation to rename the Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences in the College of Applied Health Sciences, Chicago. Dr. Barish stated that the proposed change was intended to more accurately reflect the scope of the curriculum of the program and align with national naming conventions.

Appoint Vice Chancellor for Enrollment and Retention Management, Springfield

Next, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Gooch to report on the recommendation to appoint Dr. David Meredith as vice chancellor for enrollment and retention management, Springfield. Dr. Gooch described Dr. Meredith's background and experience and emphasized his extensive experience in enrollment strategy, leadership, and data-driven decision-making. She said Dr. Meredith succeeds Dr. Vickie S. Cook, who served in the role from December 2022 through March 2026.

Establish the Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence,
College of Health, Science, and Technology, Springfield

Lastly, Ms. Craig Schilling asked Dr. Brandon Schwab, vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, University of Illinois Springfield, to report on a recommendation to establish the Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence in the College of Health, Science, and Technology at Springfield. Dr. Schwab said that this program would elevate an existing concentration to a stand-alone degree to respond to strong student interest and labor market demand. He said no new funding is required.

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

Ms. Craig Schilling thanked the subject matter experts in attendance and recognized the work and due diligence reflected in the recommendations to the Board. She then extended congratulations to Ms. Joan Sestak, director of communication and government relations, Springfield, who would be retiring from the university after more than 20 years of service. Dr. Gooch stated that Ms. Sestak was essential to her onboarding as chancellor and has been a wonderful colleague and friend, noting that her historical knowledge has been invaluable. She said she will be missed. Ms. Craig Schilling wished Ms. Sestak well in retirement.

PRESENTATION

Updates and Impact of the Carle Illinois College of Medicine

Ms. Craig Schilling stated that the committee would now be provided with a presentation from Dr. Mark Cohen, dean, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, on the 10 years of growth and impact of the Carle Illinois College of Medicine (materials on file with the secretary). She asked Dr. Isbell to make some introductory remarks.

Dr. Isbell stated that Dr. Cohen is a practicing surgical oncologist and endocrine surgeon, a tenured professor of surgery and biomedical and translational sciences, and a well-known researcher. Dr. Isbell remarked on innovation, both at the college and in Dr. Cohen's leadership.

Dr. Cohen referenced the college's impact over the past 10 years and said that it became the world's first fully accredited engineering-based college of medicine in March 2025. He said innovation is the college's cornerstone and that it emphasizes human factors, design thinking, artificial intelligence (AI), data science, and entrepreneurship in its medical curriculum. Dr. Cohen reported that the college has approximately 750 affiliated clinical and academic faculty with more than 1,000 publications and peer-reviewed articles. He stated that the college's students have created more than 65 innovations, many of which have gone on to become startup companies. Dr. Cohen described the unique approach of training students, integrating engineering principles of human-centered design thinking, problem identification, and problem solving and translating that into clinic environment. He added that students consider what can be done better and with greater efficiency. Dr. Cohen told the committee that 64

students are accepted each year from more than 3,000 applicants, and he said 90 percent of graduates are placed in their top choice of residency. He discussed the impact of training physician innovators and highlighted new technologies developed by the college's students, many of whom have won awards and competitions.

Dr. Cohen then reported on research funding secured by Carle Illinois College of Medicine affiliated faculty, and he gave examples of medical innovations and partnerships with the potential to have a transformative impact on healthcare. He described three rural health initiatives that are part of the Health Innovation and Rural Engagement Hub. Dr. Cohen referenced the Global Consortium of Innovation and Engineering in Medicine, an international public-private government collaborative to advance medicine through engineering and innovation, and he reported on global impact and innovations. Dr. Cohen concluded his presentation by describing plans for the future, which he said would include the expansion of graduate and certificate programs; growth of corporate partnerships, startups, and the global consortium; expansion of regional and state-wide impact on rural health outcomes; launch of regenerative medicine therapies; and a continuation of recruitment excellence.

Dr. Traubert referenced a comment made by Dr. Cohen that 20 percent of graduates stay in Illinois to do a residency and asked if those graduates who left Illinois return post-residency. Dr. Cohen said those students are being tracked, noting that the fifth class recently graduated. He said the first cohort that graduated five years ago finished their residencies this past year, and of those, 30 percent that have come back or are staying in Illinois long-term. Ms. Blackwell asked about the 64 slots available for new

students each year, and Dr. Cohen indicated there are currently no plans to increase the size of the cohort, primarily due to the number of clinical opportunities. He said the number of admitted students could increase in the future but there are no plans to do so for the next several years. Ms. Craig Schilling thanked Dr. Cohen 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 May 20, 2026, in Champaign.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Ms. Craig Schilling requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Basta, seconded by Dr. Traubert, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 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