

**Report of the
University of Illinois Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, June 9, 2011**

University of Illinois at Chicago
Student Center West, Chicago Rooms B and C
828 South Wolcott Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Note by Observer

Rather than providing an exhaustive report with every detail of the meeting, which lasted approximately 9 hours, the report highlights issues and parts of the meeting that the observer considers to be of great significance to the Academic Senate stakeholders of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Summary of Meeting

The trustees went into executive session soon after the meeting was convened. The regular meeting resumed around 9 AM with the opening remarks by Chair Kennedy, comments and introductions by President Hogan, followed a report by each of the three Chancellors.

It should be noted that from the meeting's regular agenda, the recommendation to amend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate Constitution was withdrawn and was not considered during the meeting.

'Access Illinois' Presidential Scholarship Initiative

President Hogan introduced a new *Presidential Scholarship Initiative* called '[Access Illinois](#).' The initiative aims to raise funds to provide different support for students such as scholarships, fellowships, awards and prizes. A promotional video about the initiative was shown. A set of leaders and employees from the University of Illinois Foundation were introduced and presented on the state of fundraising and the work of the foundation.

Report by Chancellor Easter

Highlights from Chancellor Easter's [report](#) included: the positive impact of Illinois on a state, national and global level, the state of enrollment (breaking a record for the '11-'12 academic year), the status of the Lincoln Hall project (estimated occupancy date is in April 2012), progress on international presence and in particular the Illinois presence at the *Fusionopolis* development and research complex in Singapore, progress on the search for a new athletic director, progress on the search for a new Chancellor, an illustration of the high standards set for the academic performance of student athletes, an update of the strategic plan, as well as an overview of the improving financial condition of the institution. Furthermore, the Chancellor highlighted a set of academic programs with high national rankings as well his engagements with a set of academics and

entrepreneurs in India and China. It should be noted that after the conclusion of the Chancellor's report, Chair Kennedy showed particular interest in the impact of the University on the community by asking about the effect that downsizing of the employee size of the Urbana campus (related to the Voluntary Separation Incentive program) is having on the communities that surround the University.

President Hogan shared that there is a plan under development to provide a compensation package to faculty and professional employees that would include the first salary increase in 3 years.

Presentation on 'Dashboard Indicators' by Dr. Ghosh

Special Assistant to the President, Avijit Ghosh, provided [a presentation on the on the 'Dashboard Indicators.'](#) The dashboards provide a visual display of *a set of key metrics that summarize the performance of an institution in implementing its strategic priorities and fulfilling its mission.* Each campus is compared with a group of peer institutions. Future goals include the regular presentation of dashboard items to the BOT as well as the development of campus-level dashboards by administrative units. Input from the trustees included a question about what criteria were used to identify the peer institutional groups and included a proposal for creating additional dashboards that for instance illustrate the progress of the legislative agenda as it pertains to advancing the interests of the university.

Presentations on University and State Financial Indicators

David Merriman, Professor and Associate Director, Institute of Government and Public Affairs provided [an update on the Economic and Fiscal Challenges and Responses of the State of Illinois](#) which was followed by a presentation by Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller Walter Knorr on the financial state of the university. Mr. Knorr pointed out the low percentage of the decrease in funding by the state but pointed out that the financial challenges of the State of Illinois still pose a significant concern for the university and its financial future.

Trustee Koritz provided a report on the Hospital committee and denoted the committee's support for changing its name from 'Hospital Committee' to 'University of Illinois Healthcare System Committee.'

The board went into an executive session for lunch and the regular meeting resumed in the afternoon.

At this point three UIC affiliated music performers conducted a live performance of Jazz music as part of a tradition followed the BOT to honor the arts made possible by programs at the campuses of the University of Illinois.

Presentation on 'University Information Technology Services' by Dr. Hites

Executive Chief Information Officer (ECIO) Dr. Michael Hites [provided an overview of developments in the area of IT](#) which included: the IT objectives set forth by the Academic Review and Restructuring initiative, the role of the ECIO, the structure of IT at each campus and at the University Administration level as well as the state of IT governance at each campus. At Illinois, an

IT governance task force has been created and workshops are underway that seek input and guidance from a select group of faculty, staff and students.

A report by Trustee Strobel on the Governance, Personnel and Ethics committee ensued, followed by a report by Trustee Hasara on the Academic and Student Affairs committee. At this point the agenda was re-ordered to move up the consideration of agenda items and voting. Trustees voted on the items in the regular agenda and the roll call agenda. As mentioned above, the recommendation to amend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate Constitution was not considered because it was withdrawn.

Report on Academic Professional Diversity

President Hogan remarked that there is a lot of opportunity for improvement in the area of diversity when he introduced the topic of diversity at the university. We learned that approximately 8,500 academic professionals work for the University of Illinois. Eric Smith – Interim Assistant Vice President for Equal Employment Opportunities and Human Resources – [presented a report on 'Academic Professional Diversity'](#) that included an overview of AP diversity at the university level and by campus among other issues. In the presentation, Mr. Smith highlighted the recruitment and retention challenges for APs. It is worthy to note that geographic location presents special challenges to recruit diverse candidates and that an evaluation of the campus environments and their impact on retaining APs is being planned. The presentation reported current diversity efforts and ways for improvement including the importance of conducting wider regional searches to increase the pool of applicants with diverse backgrounds. One of the trustees emphasized the importance of evaluating the campus environments on a longitudinal basis.

Presentation on 'What Teaching Entails' by Professor John Martin

Professor of Astronomy John Martin (Un. of Illinois at Springfield and University Senates Conference) led [an inspiring presentation](#) on the significant effort that goes into teaching and among other things discussed how higher levels of cognitive thinking are cultivated, the different methods of engaging students and the importance of assessing instruction.

During the public comment portion of the meeting an alumnus voice concerns about the University's performance in the area of renewable energy and sustainability.

You can list to audio recordings of the Board of Trustees meetings, including the June 9, 2011 meeting at this web site:

<http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/audio.cfm>

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