

**Report of the
University of Illinois Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, July 21, 2011
UIC Student Center West, Chicago Rooms B and C
828 South Wolcott Avenue
Chicago, Illinois**

Summary of Meeting

Except for the introduction of the new student trustees, Hannah Ehrenberg, Urbana-Champaign, Kenneth M. Thomas, Chicago, and John W. Tienken, Springfield, and Chancellor Easter's presentation on the proposal to close the Institute of Aviation, Urbana-Champaign, and the related vote, this was a fairly routine BOT meeting. The trustees went into executive session almost immediately after the 8am meeting was convened. The meeting resumed around 9am with Chair Kennedy's opening remarks, followed by President Hogan's comments and Vice President/Chancellor Allen-Meares' welcome. Also, of note, during the a.m. sessions, we had the opportunity to hear two exceptional UIC musicians. At lunch, the Board went into executive session again. During the morning and afternoon sessions a number of reports were given. Trustees McMillan, Strobel, and Hasara gave reports as respective chairs of the BOT's Audit, Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee, the Governance, Personnel and Ethics Committee, and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Vice President for Academic Affairs Rao provided information in the form of a brief report on the subject of tenure at Illinois. Katherine "Kappy" Laing, Executive Director of Governmental Relations, gave highlights of the spring 2011 Illinois Legislative Session. Efforts are underway to attempt to have changes made to Senate Bill 51. She also mentioned that the Office of Government Relations was expanding its footprint in Washington, DC, Jonathan Pyatt has been working as the Director of Federal Relations full-time, and the offices are housed in the State of Illinois Suite in DC. The board agreed that this type of report should be a regular feature of their meetings. Reports were also given by USC Chair Wheeler and U of I Foundation President Micek.

The order of the meeting had been rearranged so that public comments could be made in advance of votes on items, including the vote on the proposal to close the Institute. Interim Vice President/Chancellor Easter reviewed the proposal and detailed the successive statutory steps taken to close the Institute of Aviation. During Public Comment, three people spoke in support of maintaining the Institute, including Director Emanuel, Dana Dann-Messler, who is President of the Institute of Aviation Alumni Association Constituency Board, and a Chicago area-based airlines industry executive. Most of the trustees explained their vote before the vote was taken. Trustees Brown-Holmes, Hasara, McMillan, Montgomery, Oliver, and Strobel voted in support of the proposal to close the Institute. Trustees Estrada and Koritz voted against the proposal, and each student trustee, in an advisory vote capacity, voted against the proposal as well. Flight instruction will end at Willard Airport in 2014. (The meeting went past schedule, and Chair Kennedy had to leave the board meeting before the vote was taken.) A number of related items are posted at <http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/July%2021.%202011--Board%20Meeting/>, including a resolution in honor of Vice President for Academic Affairs Rao, action to appoint Terry Cole as Interim DIA Director, Urbana-Champaign, and another action to appoint Lon Kaufman as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs/Provost at Chicago. Walt Knorr's report on financial indicators, and those on the Brilliant Futures campaign are, of course, important. The Investment Update, provided by Hewitt, may be of particular interest to SEC and the Senate.

Throughout the day, the vice-presidents/chancellors and others referred to significant activities

and events on their campuses, in particular, those that illustrate the contributions UI is making in research areas, ranging from the arts to medicine and science. One that epitomizes the advances underway is Jason Leigh's research that was featured early this year on PBS. For those who are unaware of UIC Engineering Department's EVL (Electronic Visualization Laboratory) and its accomplishments, you can find out more at <http://engineering.uic.edu/bin/view/COE/NewsEVLNOVA>, which features EVL Director Leigh's work on avatars. Leigh is a professor in UIC's Department of Computer Science.

The board's annual retreat had occurred the previous day at the UIC Forum, Room C, and a number of important presentations were given, including those of the Vice Presidents/Chancellors who each discussed priorities and future plans for the campuses. In addition to Easter and Allen-Meares, newly-appointed Vice President/Chancellor Koch, UIS, detailed Springfield's plans for moving forward. One of the interesting elements is anticipated enrollment expansion on a regional basis with an emphasis on diversity, which began July 1, 2011. Koch emphasized that there is plenty of room for enrollment growth. Along with Koch, Vice Presidents Garcia and Schook (interim) spoke about health affairs and research during the afternoon sessions. Schook focused on trends in research funding, strategic intent, and intersections of opportunity. He indicated that program and center projects needed to be done by "rainmakers," and leaders involved in building teams of investigators. USDA, NIH, NSF, DOD and DOE are moving away from big center grants at this point. The firm Lewis-Burke Associates has been hired as lobbyists at the federal level. He also mentioned the need for multidisciplinary approaches to the complex problems that we face. He referred to the fact that in 2000, economic development was added at the "4th pillar" to the UI's missions of teaching, research and service, and at that point the institution began to support faculty startups. He said there was a "keener ability to license products," and that in Illinois UI at #6 was in the Top Ten of patenting activity and that the other nine were all companies. For details of four of the retreat presentations (Chicago, Springfield, Health Affairs, Research), see <http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/July%202020,%202011--Retreat/>. State procurement law, purchasing rules, and the university's perspectives on risk management were mentioned repeatedly during the Q&A that followed.

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SEC Observer
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