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URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
 Urbana Senate Observer
 (Final; Information)

SC.17.06 Report on the September 8, 2016 Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois at the Urbana-Champaign Campus

1 Introduction

The Board opened their public meeting with the customary rendition of the university anthem sung by Teresa, an indigenous Ecuadorian voice student of Prof. Sylvia Stone. The head of center rectangle was occupied by Chairman McMillan, and President Killeen, flanked by Counsel and Secretary. Present were trustees: Holmes, Hasara, Fitzgerald, Montgomery, Cepeda, Smart, Koritz, Smart, Estrada, the student trustees, and chancellors Koch (UIS), Wilson (UIUC) and Amiridis (UIC).

The table between the faculty observers and the trustees was occupied by the newly appointed interim VPR Seidel and VPAA Marshall, and longtime CFO Comptroller Knorr.

McMillan opened the meeting with recognition of Wilson with a reading of the appropriate resolution. Killeen showed PR videos of the three universities in the Illinois System, consisting of UIUC, UIC, UIS, the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System (UIHHSS?).

2 The Strategic Framework in Action

President Killeen praised the people who gestated the present plan over the future of UI system for the past two years. The entire report¹ should be read by the interested senator.

The highlights included that the 80K students make an annual \$15B/annum economic impact on the State. The UI system commands a \$1B research portfolio.

The document has a large number of bulleted item under “The Four Strategic Pillars” of

- I. An Institution of and for Our Students
- II. Research and Scholarship with Global Impact
- III. III Healthy Future for Illinois and the
- IV. Midwest IV Tomorrow’s University Today

Only bullet 3 of pillar II mentions a “Brilliant collaborative faculty”. Rather than repeat possibly misheard statistics (a.k.a. metrics) here, the interested reader is directed to the document. Great emphasis was given on the good progress in minority membership among the students. This observer was impressed that while the publics have an average student loan default rate of 12%, UIUC has 2%.

The presentation ended with a mention of a “compact with the State of Illinois” followed by praise from McMillan. A short presentation was given on plans for the University Sesquicentennial at graduation in May of 2018. A neologism was coined when we were promised that the University will “sesquicentennial-ize everything”.

3 Financial Report

Chairman McMillan next called on CFO Comptroller Knorr to present news “we always look forward to”. You are urged to study this very short and well-designed set of PowerPoints².

Highlights were the announcement of a \$351M “bridge” appropriation for FY17 (current academic year) to pay expenses incurred through December 31, 2016. A FY17 \$29M for the Monetary Award Program (MAP)

¹ www.trustees.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/September-8-2016/p-2-Strategic-Framework.pdf

² www.trustees.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/September-8-2016/p-3-Financial-Update.pdf

applied to the spring 2016 semester. Knorr expects full payment for the FY17 appropriation by December 2016, and a deferred general salary program is being considered for contract Year 2016-17.

The first slide was also the most revealing. Knorr allowed that he does not show this slide in public very often. It is by the month general fund revenue receivable for FY11-FY16 (as of June 30, 2016). Superimposed is a graph of what percent of the state budget this comprises. The annual undulations show a general downward trend on both counts, with a near-death “flat line” through AY15-16. To this observer this metric demonstrates that the UI is no longer a publicly supported university system. To add to this the retirement annuities and health-care benefits is not persuasive in the face that alternatively the State would have had to pay social security and Medicare contribution to Washington over all of those and prior years. A discussion of the endowment performance and the Foundation followed. Knorr ended by exercising the personal privilege of predicting the outcome of the Illinois-Carolina game yesterday.

4 Concluding Remarks

There followed committee reports including³

The Health committee was reported on by trustee Koritz. Notable was that the UI Hospital rose, in the estimation of US News and World Report, from place 23 regionally to the 8th place from the top regionally, as based on a dramatic reduction of hospital mortality. This non-profit hospital also made a profit of \$4.2M last year.

The Budget committee reported via trustee Cepeda. The funding of the Talbot Laboratory Educational labs was discussed briefly. Trustee Hasara reported on her Academic and Student affairs committee. Its memberships also includes trustees Cepeda, Estrada, and Holmes, and all three of the student trustees.

One notable item was a report by Executive Director of Ethics, Donna McNeely on the various “training” products her office has perfected. In particular, the University is now “over compliant” vis-a-vis federal mandates.

After Chairman McMillan opened the floor, a question was raised whether our increases in minority enrollment has improved our ratings. President Killeen answered in the affirmative. There followed the voting on the agenda items. There were some abstentions on specific items. Fitzgerald abstained from #13 on the expenses for the Deloitte Center at the UIUC Business School. This was followed by another round of praise from the trustees, notably for president Killeen. This was followed by the vote by roll-call. There were again a few abstentions.

This ceremonial exercise over, president Killeen extended praise to the BOT, Schook, Wilson, Seidel, and finally also the faculty senator observers. Noting that this demonstrates shared governance in action.

McMillan’s concluding remarks predicted a \$315M shortfall, and lamented the casualties of unintended consequence of the persistent budget crisis. The November 10, 2016 meeting of the BOT is in Chicago, as is the January 19, 2017, followed by the Urbana meeting on the Ides of March.

Respectfully submitted,
George Francis

³ [urlwww.trustees.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/September-8-2016/r-sep-Dashboard-Urbana.pdf](http://www.trustees.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/September-8-2016/r-sep-Dashboard-Urbana.pdf)
www.trustees.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/September-8-2016/r-sep-2016-Inclusive-Illinois-Impact.pdf