

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE  
URBANA SENATE OBSERVER  
(Final; Information)

SC.20.41 Report on the May 21, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System in Springfield (via Zoom)

**Overview**

The meeting began at 9:00 am with brief opening remarks from Don Edwards, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and a virtual performance of State song, *Illinois*.

President Killeen offered introductory remarks. He said that addressing the pandemic and its fallout will remain a priority, including lingering financial impact on students. He noted that U of I has created an emergency fund with at least 36 million in relief financial aid for students. This emergency fund will help defray tuition, housing, and other unexpected shortfalls that some students may be facing due to COVID. He said financial aid for students will be a priority, including a commitment to cover the announced tuition increase for all incoming students this coming year.

Looking ahead to Fall, Killeen said that each campus is reexamining opening and generating detailed plans to ensure both safety and excellence. The overarching priority will be to create a new normal, as the planning will affect almost every aspect of university life (e.g., class sizes, residencies, and large events like athletics). What we return to will not look like what we were familiar with before the pandemic. But he is confident that confident with the right protocols, U of I will be able to restore many face-to-face opportunities, including labs and other academic experiences that are an integral to the U of I's missions.

Susan Koch, Chancellor of UIS, then offered general remarks on the recent achievements of UIS.

Vice President Avijit Ghosh offered a financial report, which included an overview of the financial impact of the pandemic and a description of the U of I's approach to financial planning over the upcoming year. Among his central points:

- We are operating in unusual times. COVID has created profound impacts on the operations and finances of higher education. In the Spring, 90,000 UI students moved to remote learning to curb the spread of the virus.
- Like all universities, UI has witnessed significant unexpected costs and lost revenues. He expects that the total financial impact until June 30 to be approximately 167 million. Units have been instructed to save costs over the next year by doing such things as delaying capital projects.

- The financial impact on the hospital has also been significant. By May 12, the expected loss is 23 million. These impacts are being calculated weekly and arise from a combination of additional costs for some services (e.g., testing and protective gear and supplies) and lost revenues due to cancellation of many non-emergency medical services.
- The federal Cares Act funding and other federal stimulus will provide some relief to universities, but these efforts are inadequate to cover all the costs just mentioned. 12.8 billion was earmarked for higher education. The U of I received 63 million for all 3 U's combined. 50% will go directly to students for additional financial aid. The remaining 50% will help combat some of costs mentioned. As a minority serving institution, UIC received an additional 2 million. In addition, 100 billion in federal funds has been earmarked to help hospitals across the nation. 50% has already been allocated, with 25 million so far to UIC. The timing for release of any additional funds has not yet been announced. Finally, the House recently passed a new \$3 trillion package, which earmarks further funds for higher education.
- Working groups are developing scenarios to reopen while maintaining social distancing. These efforts are being coordinated at the system level by Ghosh and EVP Barbara J. Wilson. Their planning process is guided by two simple principles: (1) protecting the health and safety of students, faculty, and larger communities; and (2) maintaining the excellence of U of I's research and education programs.
- An additional group has been formed to predict possible effects of pandemic on finances, including impacts on revenue and cost. This group is developing measures to manage finances and will keep board informed. Ghosh says that UI has faced financial challenges in the past—e.g., the Great Recession. The UI overcame them, and he is confident that UI can manage these new challenges and emerge even stronger among the nation's top universities.

Resolutions were discussed to honor Dedra Mooday Williams, outgoing Board of Trustees Secretary, H. Edward Seidel, outgoing Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation, and Susan J. Koch, outgoing Chancellor of UIS.

The Board of Trustees approved the following:

#### **Personnel Decisions Affecting Urbana**

- Appoint Interim Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation
- Amend Multi-Year Contract, Head Varsity Coach, Women's Basketball, Urbana
- Appoint Members to the Athletic Board, Urbana
- Appointments to the Faculty, Administrative/Professional Staff, and Intercollegiate Athletic Staff
- Extend Term, Dean, School of Labor and Employment Relations, Urbana
- Appoint Chief Internal Auditor

### **Sexual Misconduct Policies**

- Approve New University of Illinois System Policy on Workplace-Related Intimate Personal Relationships
- Approve New University of Illinois System Policy on Consideration of Sexual Misconduct in Prior Employment

### **Diplomas**

- Resolution to Revise the Policy on Names of Students in Records, Catalogs, and Diplomas

### **Curricular Decisions Affecting Urbana**

- Eliminate the Master of Science in the Teaching of Earth Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana
- Approve General Management Online Tuition, Gies College of Business, Urbana

### **Statutory/Constitution Decisions Affecting Urbana**

- Amend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate *Constitution*, Urbana

### **Construction and Renovation Decisions Affecting Urbana**

- Approve Design for Renovation, Altgeld Hall and Replacement, Illini Hall, Urbana

### **Budgetary/Legal Decisions Affecting Urbana**

- Approve Preliminary Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2021
- Amend Twenty-Fifth Supplemental System Revenue Bond Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Auxiliary Facilities System Revenue Bonds
- Purchase Recommendations
- Authorize Settlement (*Estate of Mark James*)

### **Concluding Remarks**

Before closing, Don Edwards, Chair of the Board of Trustees, mentioned Fall planning again and noted how complex the process is. Everyone is working full time to meet the challenge.

President Killeen closed by expressing gratitude to the system-wide committee on sexual misconduct for creating the two system-wide policies, and also for its larger work on education about issues of sexual misconduct. He said they are in the search process for a permanent Chancellor for UIS and are within days of announcing an Interim Chancellor.

Submitted,  
Robin Bradley Kar