

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

SC.21.06 Report on the September 10, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System in Urbana

Chairman Don Edwards called the meeting to order and began with a performance of the state song, "Illinois," performed by Caroline McKinzie, a major in the Lyric Theatre program.

President Tim Killeen introduced guests and observers. He discussed the U of I System's responses to the COVID pandemic. Enrollments are up, a testament to our quality and to the efforts put in place to protect students, faculty, and staff. The saliva testing and Shield program, developed by "brilliant" faculty at Urbana, are key to these efforts, which many universities have been unable to do. He also announced new system-side effort focused on student mental and emotional health.

Chancellor Robert Jones provided a welcome and an update from Urbana. He reviewed safety activities being implemented in the campus. He commended faculty and staff for their extraordinary efforts to make a safe reopening possible; and students for taking responsibility for themselves and for others in complying with the new rules. While dealing with the virus is a central concern, there are many other aspects of the college experience at Urbana that are thriving. A large part of the enrollment growth is due to expanded online programs. The freshman class has an increased number of first-in-family students. Campus philanthropy is up, topping \$300 million for the third straight year. We are well on the way to reaching our campus fundraising goal of \$2.25 billion.

VP Jay Walsh presented more information on the Shield program ("testing, target, and tell"). This program is also being scaled up to a state-wide model ("Shield Illinois"), and even beyond the borders of the state ("Shield T3"), which is being adopted by other states, large manufacturing organizations, other universities, and the military. We don't do marketing – people are coming to us.

Professor Magic Wade, chair of the University Senates Conference, who provided a summary of the USC year-end report, and future goals. Productive dialogue between faculty and administration has never been more important than in the present circumstances. USC met with Pres Killeen and VP Wilson every two weeks during the summer. Plans for the upcoming year include police training and reform, and racial justice as a permanent initiative, on a par with the level of effort that has been put into COVID. Board chairman Edwards expressed the strong support from the Board for these initiatives, and for shared governance more generally.

The four Board Committee reports provided background to various items on the action agenda for today.

Public comments were presented, for five minutes each. Joe Iosbaker spoke about institutional racism at UIC, affecting disproportionate sickness and death from COVID-19 among certain groups. Kathleen Jensen also talked about the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 in the UIC area and threatened a strike of over 5300 workers.

The following action items were approved (items affected Urbana highlighted):

01. Resolution to Honor COVID-19 Response

RESOLUTION TO HONOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois is immensely proud of the heroic efforts by our dedicated leadership, faculty, and staff to safeguard not only our three university communities but the people of our state and nation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U of I System has been at the forefront of this historic health crisis from the very beginning. Weeks before the virus was widely known in the U.S. and while there were only a handful of confirmed cases in Illinois, the U of I System and its three universities had already created teams that brought together administrative leaders and our world-class experts to monitor the outbreak and map our response.

Since then, the U of I System has fulfilled its land-grant mission with unparalleled distinction and further cemented its standing as a global leader in scholarship and innovation that is focused squarely on the public good.

It has been a true team effort, supported by faculty, staff, students, and alumni across the U of I System and by donors, friends, elected officials, and many other stakeholders across the spectrum.

The lifesaving work includes pioneering new saliva-based testing and surveillance developed by researchers in Urbana-Champaign that has attracted national and international attention since it was launched this summer.

The groundbreaking SHIELD program produces rapid results at costs that allow large-scale testing. That combination is a key to curbing the virus, allowing widespread surveillance with isolation early enough to limit spread of the infection, particularly among people with asymptomatic cases.

Led by Urbana-Champaign chemistry researchers Martin Burke and Paul Hergenrother, the university's brilliant SHIELD team has added to the U of I System's legacy of world-changing innovation and given our nation an important new weapon in the battle against COVID-19.

There have been countless other contributions by our three, best-in-class universities, including:

- From UIC, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Dr. Robert Barish was asked by President Killeen to lead the University of Illinois System's COVID-19 Planning and Response Team. Additionally, Chief of Infectious Disease Dr. Richard Novak, Associate Vice Chancellor for Population Health Sciences Dr. Jerry Krishnan, and others have been leading seven clinical trials to test several medications and biological therapies that might lessen the impact of COVID-19 infection.
- Also, at UIC and under the direction of Dr. Novak, UI Health has been selected as the only Chicago site for an important national Phase 3 clinical trial of a potential vaccine against COVID-19.
- UIUC faculty, led by physics professor Nigel Goldenfeld, played a key role in epidemiological models cited by Governor J. B. Pritzker as a factor in his decision to invoke statewide stay-at-home orders.

These scientists have continued to provide up-to-date research to guide the state's prevention efforts.

- At UI Health, our dedicated health-care teams have been battling COVID-19 from the start, working around the clock to provide lifesaving treatments and comfort for both patients and their loved ones.
- At UIUC, engineering professor William King led a research team that produced a prototype emergency ventilator to help fill a surge of demand for respiratory care as a result of the virus.
- Also, at UIUC, the College of Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Lab, led by Professor Tim Fan, has processed tens of thousands of COVID-19 samples, providing rapid turnaround time for results.
- UI Health also has been at the forefront of providing community-based care especially in Chicago's West and South sides, including setting up food pantries, delivering more than 7,000 mask and hand sanitizer kits to neighborhoods, and providing infirmary care for more than 200 individuals experiencing homelessness.
- UIS, at the state's request, shared its expertise as a pioneer in online education to help colleges and K-12 schools across Illinois transition to virtual learning when the virus sent students home to study last spring.
- Also, at the state's request, our SHIELD Illinois, led by Gies College of Business Associate Dean for Strategic Innovation professor Ron Watkins, helped to coordinate efforts to expand saliva-based SHIELD testing across the entire state of Illinois.
- Many other faculty and staff, too numerous to name, across the UI System have worked diligently and gone above and beyond normal expectations in implementing new initiatives to ensure the safety and continued success of the University of Illinois students, faculty, and staff.

The Board of Trustees hereby recognizes and commends the devoted faculty and staff who have helped guide these crucial initiatives and so many others as our universities rose up on behalf of the citizens of our state and nation. For providing invaluable advice and expertise these past few months, a special thanks goes to members of our three university senates and to those on the University Senates Conference. These partnerships demonstrate the strength of our shared governance model during times of crucial decision making.

We also thank our leaders:

- at the System level: President Timothy Killeen, Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara J. Wilson, Interim Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation Jay Walsh, and Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Avijit Ghosh
- at UIUC: Chancellor and Vice President Robert Jones, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Andreas Cangellaris, Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Susan Martinis, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Danita Brown Young, and Senior Associate Chancellor for Administration and Operations Mike DeLorenzo
- at UIC: Chancellor and Vice President Michael Amiridis, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Susan Poser, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services John Coronado, Vice Chancellor for Research Joanna Groden, Vice Chancellor for Innovation T. J. Augustine, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Rex Tolliver; and Dean Wayne Giles of the School of Public Health
- at UIS: Interim Chancellor and Vice President Karen Whitney, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Dennis Papini, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Van Vieregge, and Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Lucia Vazquez
- at UI Health: Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Robert Barish, Chief Executive Officer of the UI Hospital and Clinics Michael Zenn, and Interim Chief Quality Officer Susan Bleasdale
- at Discovery Partners Institute: Interim Executive Director Bill Jackson

The Board of Trustees directs that this resolution be incorporated into the minutes of today's meeting to become a part of the official public record, recognizing the many people who helped write this important new chapter in our long, rich history.

02. Delegate Authority to Modify Compensation in Multiyear Employment Agreements
03. Appointments to the Faculty, Administrative/Professional Staff, and Intercollegiate Athletic Staff
04. Establish the Master of Science in Translational Medical Sciences, Carle Illinois College of Medicine and the Graduate College, Urbana

05. Approve Academic and Administrative Appointments for Contract Year 2020-2021
06. Employ Architect/Engineer for New Construction, Library Learning Student Success Center, Springfield
07. Approve Project and Design for Renovation and Addition, Ubben Basketball Complex Expansion, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, Urbana
08. Approve Lease of Space for the Discovery Partners Institute, Chicago, Illinois
09. Approve Lease of Space at 111 East Green Street, Champaign, Illinois
10. Approve Fiscal Year 2021 Services and Management Agreement for the University of Illinois Foundation
11. Purchase Recommendations

President Killeen closed with final comments, remarking on the extraordinary challenges and the extraordinary efforts made across the three universities to address the COVID-19, especially the efforts of innovative faculty and the exceptional work of staff who have kept the universities running in these difficult times. A series of podcasts will highlight these groundbreaking contributions, developed with WILL. He also gave the Board a preview of the upcoming changes to the Statutes and General Rules, which will be approved at the next Board meeting.

Board chairman Edwards added how proud he is of the University of Illinois's response to these challenges, including the transition to online instruction. "The world's eyes are on the University of Illinois."

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.

Submitted,  
Nicholas Burbules