

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

**SC.26.12** Report on the January 15, 2026, Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System in Chicago

8:08 a.m. Special Session

8:12 a.m. Executive Session

**10:40am Regular Meeting**

- Introduction of Cameo Humes who performed the State song: *Illinois*
- Opening Remarks: Chairman Jesse Ruiz

Chairman Ruiz conducted a “general role call” due to late start time of the meeting. Ruiz recognized past Board member David Downey who passed away December 27, 2025. President Killeen also recognized Downey’s long relationship with the University and his positive, powerful, and lasting impact along with his warmth and humanity.

- Introductions: President Killeen introduced Senate Observers and Academic Professional Staff Representative.
- Special Order of Business: Chairman Ruiz noted that this meeting is the Board’s annual meeting during which there will be elections for the Board’s Chair, Executive Committee, Board Officers, and to Delegate Signatures.

Reminder: This process is a combined process of OMA, Board’s Rules, Roberts Rules. Board Chair, Board Secretary, Board Comptroller, University Council, Treasurer (2-year terms) OMA prohibits no secret voting. BOT uses voice vote.

**Board Chair nomination:** Jessie Ruiz.

**Boad Secretary:** Jeffrey Stein.

**Board Comptroller:** Paul Ellenger.

**University Counsel:** Scott Rice.

**Executive Committee nominations:** (2 positions) Ramone Cepeda and Tami Craig-Shilling.

**Approval of the Board delegations for signature:** (Ruiz and Secretary as witness)  
Mention of Killeen's plans to step down June 30, 2027.

**President Killeen's Remarks:**

President Killeen noted that he has fully appreciated his time with the University and will continue working in earnest with us throughout the next 18 months. He noted the value of the partnerships he has developed - with the Board of Trustees, with the Chancellors, Provosts, faculty, and staff. He also noted the challenges we are facing – the current budget season as well as challenges across the board for higher ed. President Killeen provided a ppt overview of some of the faculty, instructors, and others across the System noting that we moved from a university that first had 2 instructors and 50 students to now over 7,000 faculty and over 100,000 students.

“A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” Henry Adams, historian and grandson of John Quincy Adams

Killeen emphasized the work that is done beyond teaching and research. Faculty and instructors are also mentors, public speakers and scholars, opinion writers, influencers, working with industry and government to fuel economy. IQMP, DPI, Research Park – their expertise and experience is key attractors for commercial partners. Peer review is fundamental – but a lot of their other work of scholars is underappreciated.

**Remarks: Chancellor/Vice President Marie Lynn Miranda - Welcome**

Partnerships: Very important! Translate research into real world impact. Inclusive pipelines, drive economic dev. Expand access to research. In 2023, UIC added \$357.7 million income to the Illinois economy. UIDP, C2QA, Argonne, Fermi,

Emerging fields become engines of opportunity for everyone – science, arts, etc. Let's keep building together.

**Remarks: Faculty Presentation: Faculty Without Tenure, Not Without Impact: Shining a Spotlight on Non-Tenure Track Faculty, Kate Floros, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago**

Gave some overview of the NTT (Chicago and Springfield) or Specialized Faculty (in Urbana). Very thorough. See the slides shared from her presentation.

**Remarks: University of Illinois Chicago Alumni Association Annual Update: Damaris Tapia, Executive Director**

56% of students are PELL eligible, first-generation college students. Designated as an “Opportunity University” by Carnegie. 360,000 alums, \$7 Billion in income. (64,000 jobs) 2017

launched UIC specific Alumni Association. 2020 is UIC Alumni Board. Part of the UIC Advancement Team. "Alumni Connected" "Flames Connect" Alumni Admissions.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Check the notes from yesterday's meetings.

- Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee, Trustee Caroline Blackwell, Vice-chair
- University Healthcare System Committee, Trustee Jesse Ruiz, Chair
- Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee, Trustee Ramón Cepeda, Chair
- Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Trustee Tami Craig Schilling, Chair

#### **Remarks: Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs Nicholas Jones: Tuition, Fees, and Room and Board Rates, Academic Year 2026-2027**

Very well-presented data. Check the ppt. provided by VP Jones.

#### **Public Comment Session:**

Ruiz – Acknowledge birthdate of Trustees and MLK

1. State Rep Steven Reik - - Memorial Stadium comments. 1975 Graduate. Asks Board to reconsider Geis' gift and remove his name from the stadium.
2. Barbara Rambsey, UIC Professor – DEI policies. Retreat from our commitments. Questioning how they have undermined people. MLK - - "rising authoritarianism" where we stand at times of challenging controversy.... We are about a mission we take seriously. Preemptive compliance and capitulation. Have a special meeting on DEI, take into consideration all the letters, reconsider.
3. Illiana Sesilio – Student. Here to share what is happening to the students. Termination of DCEP. Safe space. (Please keep funding...) STEM field faculty are not very thoughtful.
4. Allison Frank – Student. Anti-Semitism. Jewish students are not safe on this campus. Baked into processes, culture, and climate. (Filed 4 different bias reports) First week – Jewish child and family services. University failed to protect me. Zionism – "Hatred is bad, unless it's against Jews."
5. Arwell Wiggins – neuroscience. Don't cancel DuSable Program.
6. Managa Equosho – freshman. DuSable Scholars Program.
7. VJ Shah – Student. we need a mascot at UIUC
8. Tarrell Morton – Assoc. Prof. Stop ending the DeSable Program.
9. Garcia – Professor - Reverse decision about DEI re: scholarships and promoting faculty.
10. Charles Cowen – Jewish Student Community. Jews, Israelis, Zionists...

#### **Consideration of Agenda Items and Voting**

All items in the agenda packet were presented and discussed extensively in committee meetings and then approved via voting during this meeting.

## **Other Reports and Comments**

Additional Comments: Chair of the Board

Additional Comments: President Timothy L. Killeen

Old Business from Board Members (none)

New Business from Board Members (none)

Announcements from Chair of the Board (noted the Board's upcoming meetings)

## **12:40pm Board Meeting Adjourns**

Submitted by Joanne Kaczmarek