

**SC.11.08, REPORT, Meeting of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees
November 18, 2010
University of Illinois at Chicago**

Please note that Agenda Items and an audio recording of the meeting are available at the Board website: <http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/audio/20101118/>

Discussion of proposed amendments to the *Statutes* and *General Rules*

1. Matt Wheeler, Chair of University Senates Conference, read a statement on behalf of the Conference regarding the advice of the three campus Senates and of USC.

He summarized the consultation process mandated in the *Statutes*, and gave an account of the many special meetings held by the three campus Senates and USC in order to meet the Board's unusually tight deadline for forwarding advice. He emphasized that a change to the *Statutes* is comparable to a change in the Constitution, and that discussion of these proposed changes requires time and care. He also expressed USC's desire to continue to be involved in the planning of implementation of any changes approved. He then summarized the advice on the specific proposals given by each Senate and by USC.

a. Regarding the proposed addition of "Vice President" to the title "Chancellor": three of the four faculty groups advised against making this change. The only body that supported the change was the Senate of the Springfield campus.

b. Regarding the proposed change in the portfolio and title of the Vice President of Technology and Economic Development: While only two of the three Senates supported this change, all three Senates expressed a preference for the title of Vice President for Research, rather than Vice President of Research, Technology, and Economic Development; USC shares this position.

c. On the creation of the position of Vice President of Health Affairs: UIS Senate supported the change; UIUC Senate advised against it; UIC Senate supported it, but with the expressed preference that the academic and budgetary authority must remain with the campuses. The UIC position was adopted by USC.

d. On the revision of references to the Provost in the governing documents: USC was happy to see that this proposal was dropped and that the intention was to retain the title of Provost.

2. Comments by President Michael Hogan

President Hogan thanked Matt and his colleagues on the Senates for a thorough and expeditious review, stating that he had attended forty meetings regarding the proposals. He also stated that he was the first University of Illinois president to address the UIUC student senate or to speak to the UIC Faculty Senate.

He then expressed his perception that there was overwhelming support for the need to develop a more clear administrative structure, but that there was no clear consensus across campuses.

He affirmed his acceptance of the retention of the title "provost," and stated that the provosts' title would be "Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Provost."

He reaffirmed his commitment to shared governance and vowed to continue to consult with USC.

Regarding the change in the title of the chancellors, he stated, "Nothing in these changes is intended to diminish the authority of the chancellors or the mission and identity of each campus."

3. Comments by Board Chair Christopher G Kennedy:

Trustee Kennedy stated that the retitling of the chancellors was part of a package of governance reforms, motivated to respond to the perception that the University had suffered from an overreaching board and a weakened presidency in the past. The desire of the Board was to strengthen the presidency so that everyone understands that the president is the chief executive officer. The addition of "Vice President" to the title of the chancellors was made so that everyone understands that the Chancellor reports to President. The two titles--Chancellor and President--are, he said, confusing to external audiences, because other universities, such as University of Texas, do things differently. Trustee Kennedy expressed his view that the retitling would respond to external constituents' "need to know they are talking to the top dog."

He added that the driving force behind this change was the desire to "protect the university from an overreaching board."

He concluded by stating that the Board appreciated the engagement of those involved in our "co-governance structure," which had informed the Board's thinking about the subject; and he expressed his desire to continue that relationship under Matt Wheeler's leadership.

4. Comments by Trustee Pamela Strobel

Trustee Strobel expressed her endorsement of the proposed changes, and thanked the faculty for our extensive involvement and for the hundreds of hours of work in the discussion of these issues, which speak "tremendously about our commitment to the concept of shared governance."

She also made the following comments:

"I guess some people might think this is moving fast; I'm one of the people who think it is moving more slowly than I would like to see."

"I am convinced that this is not going to in any way change the fundamental mission that each campus has, or the responsibilities of the individual chancellors."

5. Trustee McMillan thanked the student groups for their contributions to the discussion as well, adding that he fully supported all the recommendations.

The Board then voted unanimously to approve all recommended amendments to the Statutes and General Rules.

Other business

1. After the vote to approve all items, Chair Kennedy stated that he had hoped to organize a conference call between the President and the Senate representatives to "walk [us] through the agenda," and promised to do so will do before all future meetings.

2. Carrie Hightman, Chairwoman of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, gave a report in which she requested the Board's support for the Public Agenda for success in higher education. She emphasized the IBHE's sense that we must publicize higher education as an economic investment in the future.

3. Each of the Chancellors reported on sustainability efforts at their respective campuses.

4. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Walter Knorr presented a review of tuition and affordability. This was strictly informational, not a proposal for setting tuition at any particular level.

He compared faculty salaries and tuition at the Big 10 institutions. Of the Big 10, only Penn State has higher tuition rates than the University of Illinois; we are fifth in salaries.

Trustee Strobel concluded that we should not raise tuition in order to raise faculty salaries; rather these funds must be generated through cost reductions.

5. Chief Barbara O'Connor and Vice Chancellor Renée Romano spoke about safety on the UIUC campus. Vice Chancellor Romano has formed a task force on campus safety involving the offices of Housing and Public Safety representatives. David Olsen and student Trustee Dan Soso are serving on this task force

6. Public Comment Session

a. Patrick Thompson president and founder of Visionaries Educating Youth, spoke on this program, which has partnered with UIUC's Dept. of Educational Policy Studies to establish mentoring program and after-school tutoring program for at-

risk youth. He quoted from from the Stewarding Excellence report on Extension: the focus has been on agriculture, but we should do better with emerging urban issues.

b. Thomas Kinsella, a retired Chicago police officer, praised the decision to deny Bill Ayers emeritus status.

c. Prof. Barbara Risnik, UIC, had come prepared with a statement regarding the restructuring proposals, which she now deemed irrelevant. The executive officers of LAS at UIC unanimously wanted to request that the vote be postponed until all had had more time to consider. She cited the deep concern on the UIC campus, and the fear that the language of "one university," with the flagship elsewhere, bodes ill for UIC, stating that she had never seen so much unanimity at UIC as she had in the shared perception that the changes were being made too quickly.

d. David Kales, a Chicago firefighter, spoke in favor of the Board's decision to deny emeritus status to Bill Ayers.

e. Rebecca Colcani opined that the goal to end the use of coal at Abbott Power Plant by 2017 is not soon enough. She mentioned a FOIA request for information on the composition of this coal ash and where the ash is being disposed, adding that some believe that the University is dumping ash in empty mine shafts. Citizens have a right to know where it goes. Should be disposed of in landfills with appropriate lining.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

Joyce Tolliver, Chair, Executive Committee, Academic Senate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign