

**Report of the  
University of Illinois Board of Trustees Meeting  
Dec. 2, 2011  
University of Illinois at Springfield**

This was the first BOT meeting to be video-streamed; it was also the first Board meeting attended by our Chancellor, Phyllis Wise; and by the new Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Christophe Pierre.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS MEETING:**

1. **President Hogan** announced that, in the wake of the recent sex abuse scandal at Penn State, he had formed **a task force** to inventory our current processes and training in this area. He commented that he had decided to form the task force, and then heard from Board Chair Chris Kennedy that the Chair also wanted him to form such a committee and report back to the Board.

Serving on the Task Force will be Tom Bearrows (University Counsel), Maureen Parks (Executive Director of Human Relations), and Donna McNeilly (University Ethics Office).

The initiative will involve the following steps:

1. a communication emphasizing safety for all members of our community, specifying that anyone witnessing criminal activity is required to report such activity to law enforcement officers, and that all who make such reports will be protected from retaliation;
2. an inventory and evaluation of our current preventive and reporting practices;
3. implementation of new policies, including mandatory sexual harassment training for all university employees

The President specified that we would implement special oversight for activities involving youth, such as music camp, 4H, etc.

2. George Reid, Executive Director of the **Illinois Board of Higher Education**, spoke on performance-based funding. The Blueprint for Higher Education created by the IBHE a couple of years ago revealed a gap in terms of access. However, the UI is making good progress in closing that gap.

3. Special Assistant to the President Ajijit Ghosh presented data based on the "**Dashboard**," which is the Board's system of measuring progress in a variety of areas on each of the three campuses. Each campus has its own "dashboard," which compares the campus to its peers. Currently only "peer" campuses are identified in these reports, but, in response to a request from Chair Kennedy, Dr. Ghosh indicated that future reports might also include "aspirational peers." Trustee Pamela Strobel indicated that it was important that the Chancellors be consulted when determining the list of peers and aspirational peers for each campus. The Board agreed that discussion of campus and even unit-level metrics would form an important part of the January 2012 Board retreat.

Chair Kennedy expressed his sense that, of the six yearly Board meetings, two should be dedicated to examining globally the status of the University, considering all aspects of the Dashboard.

4. Several months ago, the Board hired the Bronner Group to advise the University on how we could increase the number of contracts we award to **MAFBE**-certified companies. (MAFBE stands for Minority and Female Business Enterprise). Representatives of the Bronner Group--which itself is MAFBE-certified--gave their report. They reported that about 10% of the funds the University spends on contracts goes to MAFBE-certified companies.

They recommended that, in order to increase this percentage, we create 2.5 additional positions for supplier diversity-related activities, including a half-time position to support technology. They also suggested that we stop using the term MAFBE, which they said has negative connotations across the state, and that we instead use a new "brand"--for instance, "UILLINOIS Supplier Diversity."

Trustee Koritz asked how much money the University had paid the Bronner Group for this consultation; the answer was "about \$220,000."

The trustees considered the relative merits both of the Bronner Group recommendations, and of the funds spent on their consultation. Trustee Estrada noted he often heard questions about the University's commitment to hiring minority-owned businesses, but that we should also hold ourselves accountable for the amount of money we spend on **consultants**.

5. A group of legislators presented a statement to the Board requesting that they make every effort to keep the **Police Training Institute** open on our campus

A Stewarding Excellence report had recommended that we investigate other ways for PTI to operate that would not involve campus expenditure. . Laurel Prussing, Chapin Rose, Mike Frerichs, and Naomi Jakobssen argued, however, that short-term financial difficulties should not drive a decision to close an entity that has trained over half of the police officers in the state.

Chair Kennedy assured the guests that President Hogan would work to find a way to "be flexible" in planning PTI's future.

6. Chancellor Susan Koch gave a **presentation on the University of Illinois-Springfield campus** and its recent accomplishments. Among other data presented were the following:

ISU has 5,137 students, 61 percent of whom are undergraduates. It has 44 degree programs. Recent noteworthy events included Chancellor Koch's representation of UIS at the Illinois State Fair, at which Lt. Governor Sheila Simon hosted an event for top high school scholars.

Also, Chancellor Koch spoke of UIS's accomplishments in online learning, including briefings given by two faculty members to the Governor on online learning, and the promotion of Prof. Ray Schroeder to Associate Vice Chancellor for Online Learning.

Chancellor Koch expressed the following goals for her campus:

1. Establish a tone of ethical, open, engaged leadership--including establishing a variety of communication channels, including a Chancellor's Blog, which will launch in January.

2. Advance academic and research mission, by identifying the academic and research programs at which UIS can be the best in the world
3. Increase the UIS investment in student recruitment, success, and retention. The UIS goal is to increase enrollment to 6000 undergraduate students.
4. Advance diversity efforts, for which the campus will increase the staffing in its office of equal access and opportunity.

7. Senate Chair **Tih-Fen Ting** gave the annual report on the activities of the **UIS Senate**. Among other points:

1. The Senate Executive Committee of UIS has 6 members and meets every two weeks.
2. The full UIS Senate consists of 28 senators, including 20 faculty members. This number represents 10 percent of UIS's tenure-track faculty.
3. One accomplishment of the UIS Senate was to approve an initiative to raise awareness of the Access Illinois Initiative, which will increase scholarship funds for underrepresented students. Dr. Ting praised Chancellor Koch for having made a \$25,000 contribution to this fund.
4. Speaking about the University Senates Conference request for a cross-campus summit, Dr. Ting noted that the UIS Senate had proposed different topics for this summit, and asserted that none of those topics were reflected in the USC report. However she added that was glad to see that many of the topics proposed by UIS were already addressed in the enrollment management proposals forwarded by the two outside consultants hired by the President's Office.

Chair Kennedy asked Dr. Ting how **the "pruning" of academic programs** takes place at UIS. She responded that there was a careful budgetary review before any new programs were approved at the campus level, and that there was ongoing program review with intense faculty participation, the outcomes of which were to be taken seriously.

Chair Kennedy asked Dr. Ting about her view of the role of the Board in making decisions regarding program pruning, and she responded, "I guess the Board can tell administrators what to do."

8. During the report of **Chief Financial Officer Walter Knorr**, the following figures were presented:

1. Our MAP funding, for financial aid, is coming in as billed, as are tuition dollars.
2. Tuition and state money go mostly to support our academic mission, including salaries. Average salaries at the three campuses:  
 \$65,000 at UIS  
 \$96,000 at UIC  
 \$106,000 at UIUC

There is a considerable lag in faculty salaries behind peer private institutions such as Duke, Washington University, etc.

The Board discussed the increasing need for money to fund financial aid. Chair Kennedy expressed the opinion that **we should be using internal cuts from ARR to provide more financial aid.**

It was noted that UIUC has the second highest graduation rate among public institutions in our peer group, and the second lowest debt level upon graduation.

The President asserted that his office would be doing **a very serious program review**, starting with centers and institutes and then going to doctoral programs. He added that the University must be sure to allocate our funds to “the highest priorities.”

9. Faculty comment: **University Senates Conference chair Don Chambers** spoke about the role of USC and added his observation that faculty must be centrally involved in decisions about what metrics should be included in the “Dashboard” that is used to measure performance.

**Joyce Tolliver, SEC Vice-Chair**  
URBANA SENATE OBSERVER