

**Report of the
University of Illinois Board of Trustees Meeting
January 19, 2012
University of Illinois at Chicago**

Audio/video recordings of the meeting will be available here:

<http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/audio>

SUMMARY: The meeting included over four hours of executive session discussion. In open session, the trustees elected officers for the calendar year, approved tuition rates, and voted on appointments included in the agenda items, including the appointment of a new football coach for the UIUC campus. They also heard a presentation from University Senates Conference Chair Don Chambers on the responsibility of our administrative leaders for the ethical violations detailed in the January 13 Investigative Report.

This was the last Board meeting of Dr. Michele Thompson, who has served the University for over thirty years. A resolution was read in appreciation of her distinguished service, and President Hogan announced that the rooms in the UIC Student Union where the Board meets will be renamed in her honor.

1. ELECTIONS: Chris Kennedy was unanimously re-elected to a third term as BOT chair. Trustees Stroben and McMillan were re-elected as members of the Executive Committee. Thomas Bearrows was re-elected as BOT representative of University Counsel. Finally, BOT Secretary Michele Thompson was re-elected until Jan. 30, 2012, at which point she will retire and the position will be assumed by Susan Kies.

2. TUITION: In accordance with the Board's decision last year to set the four-year tuition rate at the level of inflation, an increase of 4.8% was approved.

VP Knorr noted that Illinois is the only state that has the four-year guaranteed tuition. This guarantee skews the numbers, since individual students pay the same rate of tuition for four years in a row. It also makes it hard to compare our tuition rates across public universities in other states.

He also noted that, while there has been an increase in our enrollments over the past decade, there has also been a 34% decrease in state funding.

Trustee Koritz expressed a hope that next year the increase in tuition can be set at 0%.

Trustee Montgomery expressed the opinion that online education could provide more access at a lower cost.

3. APPOINTMENTS: Usually, academic and administrative appointments are approved by the Board without comment. This time, Trustees Oliver and Montgomery spoke against the appointment of Timothy Beckman as the UIUC head varsity coach for football. Trustee Oliver asserted his conviction that insufficient efforts were made to recruit and hire an African-American coach, and noted that, within our league, we join only Purdue and Northeastern in the dubious distinction of never having hired an African-American football or basketball coach. Both Trustee Oliver and Trustee Montgomery voted "no" on the hiring of Coach Beckman; other trustees approved the hire.

Chair Kennedy noted that during executive session discussions, each trustee had had an opportunity to frankly discuss this personnel issue.

4. STATEMENT ON LEADERSHIP read by Don Chambers, Chair of University Senates Conference: The text of the statement is included below.

The Board made no response to the Statement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS TO THE BOARD ON THE ETHICAL DIMENSIONS OF LEADERSHIP (JANUARY 18, 2012)

Thank you, members of the Board, for the opportunity to speak with you today, in the midst of one of the worst scandals ever to confront this university.

This is a time when faculty leaders must speak up about our commitment to ethical standards, as you have. I am speaking here on behalf of the current elected senate leadership of Urbana, Matt Wheeler and Joyce Tolliver; of the Chicago senate, Phil Patston and myself; and of the University Senates Conference, Nick Burbules and myself.

These have been long and difficult days for all of us, so I will be brief and direct.

We believe that the Investigative Report on Anonymous E-Mails contains evidence implicating a wider scope of involvement in the controversy than simply the question of who wrote the anonymous e-mails themselves.

Today, we want to articulate a number of principles:

First, ethical conduct means more than merely legal conduct; and there are things which may be legally permissible, but which are nevertheless ethically reprehensible.

Second, direct causal responsibility is not the same as moral responsibility; and responsibility for setting an ethical tone and promoting a culture of accountability is a central dimension of leadership.

Third, as Trustee Edward McMillan has so aptly articulated, leaders must accept responsibility for what happens on their watch even if they may not have personally directed or approved it.

No one can read the Investigative Report, including the Appendices, without being shocked by a widespread pattern of inappropriate, secretive, and deceptive behavior. The content of some of the secret communications is unbelievably mean-spirited and nasty. I am sure that readers to whom these individuals are just names would wonder, *Who are these people?* This pattern of sleazy conduct, now on open display, is as damaging to the university as the production of the infamous e-mails themselves.

In closing, I want to reiterate our central concern with this scandal. This pattern of behavior, including but not limited to the production of the anonymous emails themselves, is the most serious assault on the principles and processes of shared governance that has ever occurred in the history of this great university.

But beyond this, we speak to our concerns as educators, conscious of our role as models and exemplars to our students in how to conduct themselves. Our behavior, as professors or as administrators, is always on display to them; and when we fail to hold ourselves to the highest standards of behavior, we fail as educators as well.

Joyce Tolliver, SEC Vice-Chair

URBANA SENATE OBSERVER