

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Urbana Senate Observer
(Final; Information)

SC.17.14 Report on the March 15, 2017 Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Summary: Every action item on the BOT agenda passed without discussion or objection. Major presentations were given by President Killeen on the Strategic Framework, by VP Knorr on the State budget and on the university's financial condition, and by USC representatives Gay Miller and Harley Johnson on student engagement in research at the three universities. There were two brief moments of public protest, one by a group of students who interrupted President Killeen's presentation with calls for a more energetic effort to recruit and retain black students, and the other by a group of faculty from UIS who stood in silent protest during Trustee McMillan's committee report. The public comment session had two speakers: a parent of a UIUC student raising issues about reporting of sexual assault incidents on campus, and a newly elected UIUC student senator reiterating the message of the student demonstrators.

Detailed observations

Executive Session ran long, so the open meeting scheduled to begin at 9:30 actually began at 10:07. Two organized advocacy groups were present: a student group identified as Black United Front, and UIS United Faculty.

Ricardo Herrera (UIUC Professor of Voice) performed the State song (quite beautifully, to enthusiastic applause).

President Killeen introduced the universities' staff present at the meeting. Chancellor Jones welcomed the Trustees to Urbana and discussed the preparation for the sesquicentennial celebration, which is intended to include a rethinking of the Land Grant Mission. Chancellor Jones discussed several items:

- UIUC College of Medicine: has received IBHE approval.
- Student success: data from career center suggests UIUC is doing well. E.g., 88% of 2015-2016 secured first position within 6 months (employment, volunteer, graduate school). Of those in jobs, 66% were located in Illinois.
- United Airlines will add 3 flights a day in and out of CMI. Next goal is to get UA or AA to add a direct flight to the east coast.

- Unofficial St. Patrick's Day—the senseless death of a student in a senseless ritual requires us to bring an end to this event. We must change the notion that this is a harmless ritual: “It is a threat to the safety and well-being of our students.”

Finally, Chancellor Jones spoke briefly on the role of the Trustees throughout the history of the university and presented the Trustees with Sesquicentennial Medallions created specially for the current Board members, imprinted with the motto “Shaping the Future for the Past 150 Years.”

Chairman Koritz thanked Chancellor Jones and introduced President Killeen for his 4th Strategic Framework presentation (Research and Scholarship with Global Impact). As he reached a passage on the planned enrollment growth, his talk was interrupted by a large troupe of student protestors calling for admission and retention of more black students (Project 1000). As they filed out, President Killeen thanked them for their passion, said that the enrollment expansion would include a serious commitment to greater diversity. He then continued with discussion of the Strategic Framework. One highlight was a short video clip sampling from the many collaborations between UIUC Art + Design Professor Donna Cox and the NCSA, resulting in filmed visualizations of natural phenomena ranging from solar weather events to photosynthesis. He ended the talk with announcement of Triple-I (Invest in Illinoisans), designed to reduce the “outflow” of Illinois high school grads to other states. \$170M per year will be earmarked from the IPAC agreement for scholarship support to Illinois in-state students. This represents 85% of our total financial aid, and we will be committing that 85% of future growth in scholarship funding will also be directed to Illinois in-state students.

There were no questions or comments. Chairman Koritz thanked President Killeen for ambitious and insightful work, and then introduced VP Knorr.

VP Knorr reviewed the status of the legislative budget, including what the Governor has proposed for FY18 funding to the universities. The cumulative impact of the budget impasse has risen to \$848M shortfall over years with nothing but bridge funding. Slides were presented showing the financial condition of the hospital and a series of comparisons of UI with other Big10 institutions (endowment funds, student indebtedness, percent of total spending for administration costs, percent of total spending on academic support). Chairman Koritz asked for a clarification on state revenue, and Trustee McMillan commented that although we have made progress on controlling administrative costs, we still have “a ways to go.”

Committee reports were made by Chairs Cepeda, Koritz, Fitzgerald, and McMillan. During Trustee McMillan's report, the UIS Faculty United group rose silently and held up signs reading “Faculty Voice = Academic Quality” and “UIS contract now.” At the conclusion of his report, the group left.

The USC presentation was made by Gay Miller and Harley Johnson, focused on student engagement in research across the 3 universities: a project on urban zoning led by UIC

professor Jamie Chriqui; the STRONG Kids 2 project led by UIUC professors Barbara Fiese & Sharon Donovan; a biology/art collaboration (“focus stacking” of photographic images) led by UIS professors Michael Lemke and Mike Miller; and the Illinois Cancer Scholars, led by a UIUC professor Rohit Bhargava. Chairman Koritz thanked the presenters.

During the public comment session:

Speaker 1 (Brent Barron, a parent of a UIUC student) raised a concern about withholding of information about fraternities where sexual assaults have occurred. Under university policy, parents are informed that incidents have occurred, and are advised to caution their children, but they not informed of where the incidents have occurred—a very important bit of information in interceding with their children.

Speaker 2 (UIUC student Kendall Brooks) spoke on the lack of progress made by the university (meaning UIUC) in enrolling and retaining black students Since Project 500 in 1968, the university has sometimes enrolled as many as 500 black freshman and sometimes not, but the number is never much above 500. The Black United Front (the group protesting during the President’s presentation) represent a new push, Project 1000, to try to speed progress on this unmet goal.

Secretary Dedra Williams read the list of items on the voice vote agenda (all of which had been previously reviewed by the relevant committees), and all passed without comment or objection.

Then Secretary Williams read the list of items on the roll call agenda (all of which had been previously reviewed by the relevant committees). Trustee were directed to vote yes to all or to indicate which items, if any, for which they vote no. Apart from abstentions on procurement items, Trustees voted yes to all.

These actions are officially recorded at:

<http://www.trustees.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/March-15-2017>

Closing comments were made by President Killeen, Chairman Koritz (who urged the Trustees to try to join commencement ceremonies at each of the campuses). The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Jackson