

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**

Urbana Senate Observer  
(Final; Information)

**SC.18.05** Report on the September 7, 2017 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Board of Trustees Chair Koritz reported the installation of a new member of the Board, Stuart King.

President Killeen noted the approval of a state budget, and reported on several initiatives affecting UIUC. These include:

- a) A 3 year initiative to attract outstanding faculty members, both rising and established, to the system's universities, with a goal of up to 45 hires over a 3 year period;
- b) A change in the management of farmland owned by the university, shifting from leasing land to the highest bidder to consideration of those bids with the best management practices, and a predetermined price offered to the best candidate. This change was made in consultation with the new dean of ACES, as well as with input from the Farm Bureau and faculty.
- c) Splitting of the Alumni Association into 3 entities, one for each University, each with its own board and its own director. This change aligns with alumni loyalties, which tend to be to a specific University rather than to the System as a whole.
- d) Finally, he reported that there have been record enrollments in the university system for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in succession.

Avijit Ghosh was nominated and unanimously approved as chief financial officer of the UI System, having served as interim in this position since the retirement of Walter Knorr this summer.

Chancellor Jones welcomed Board members to UIUC, noting that sesquicentennial celebrations are underway, and that there will be a conference to showcase collaborative research at UIUC.

Avijit Ghosh commented on the financial situation of the University. There have been increases in all phases of student enrollment, from applications through admissions and acceptances, which leads to increased income. Gifts have increased and auxiliary income has remained steady, but state support has been uneven in the years without a budget.

In her USC presentation, Mrinalini Rao summarized the role and function of the University Senates Conference, and USC's role in making changes to the University statutes. She also commented on challenges facing the System, including the need for a capital budget; the nationally relevant discussions on diversity; and the need to emphasize the monetary value of the University to the state.

Committee reports were summarized by the chairs of the several committees.

Two people had requested time to make a presentation to the Board: Stephen Kaufmann and Alvero Cruz; however, Cruz was not present, so only Kaufmann made his presentation. He requested that the University end three practices:

- a) The playing of specific music that encourages calls for the return of Chief Illiniwek at half time;
- b) Licensing of Chief Illiniwek merchandise;
- c) Appearances by Chief Illiniwek wherever they occur;

and that the University

- d) Recall the original meaning of the term "fighting Illini", which did not refer to native Americans but to Illinois soldiers in World War I.

At the end of the meeting, President Killeen noted that a System-wide fund drive will begin in October, comprising 3 separate drives, by each of the 3 universities in the system.

Respectfully submitted by Bettina Francis, Senate Executive Committee Chair