A hearing on the status of women was held in the morning prior to the meeting of the Board.

Meeting of the Board of Trustees 1:15-1:22 p.m., October 11.
The Board received written and oral reports on the activities of the UIC Senate and the Senators Conference. (Copies of the written reports are on file at the Senate Office together with the other materials provided in advance of and at the meeting. The Trustees asked about the special meeting called by petition concerning the search process for the UIC Chancellor. While there was extensive discussion at that meeting, no action was taken in the absence of a quorum. (The Chicago Senate quorum is 50, a fourth of the total membership.) The Senators Conference was questioned about the fourth mission of economic development with a focus on the fears of the faculty. One Trustee noted that this could be an issue of the "haves and the have nots."

Meeting of the Board of Trustees as Committee of the Whole, 1:55-3:50 p.m.
The session was given over to an update on economic development activities. (Slides included in material filed with the Senate Office.) The session was extended in time due to intensive discussion of activities related to the contacts of a Board subcommittee and Vice Presidents Gardner and Bazzani with various groups and discussing proposals for extensive funding requests outside the Board’s approved request to the IBHE.

The history was reviewed starting with Governor Ryan’s initiatives creating the Illinois Coalition fall 1999, creation of Illinois VentureTECH last February, the State Senate’s March resolution promoting the universities’ role in economic development, appointment of Gardner as Vice President for Economic and Corporate Relations in July and later discussions with the possibility of further funding for VentureTECH. (The March Senate resolution was noted as killing much of our former concern about conflict of interest.) Stress was given to the view that there is a need to make quick decisions and to find as many avenues to support our needs as possible. (Apparently a subcommittee of Shea, Schmidt and Gindorf had been created to work on economic development issues.) Trustee Lamont asked how decisions could happen so fast that he didn’t see them happening. Other Trustees expressed concern about the breakneck speed of the process saying communication was not sufficient and that Board as a whole did not understand what was happening. Haste was justified on the grounds the Illinois Coalition is to give its final recommendations for funding by Nov. 1, closing period was at the end of the current week the Trustees met.

In defense of the actions in moving ahead, it was stressed that we have multiple missions and need to use every resource to maximum funds in support of those missions. Bazzani saw these contacts as an opportunity to request and ideally get funding needed for economic development outside the IBHE budget with the IBHE kept apprised of our activity at every step. The effort is to try out ideas to see what may be viable before any public request for support. The programs belong to other entities in the state. “Our currency is the genius of our faculty.”
What we can offer is our faculty and how we can contribute to the state according to Bazzani. We can’t manage these projects through the IBHE budget.

The Board engaged in discussion about whether adequate information was provided, letters on projects received, whether people were informed. The proposals include two $80M buildings; perhaps the Board would have wanted something else was one comment. Funds in economic development area would flow to engineering and agriculture at UIUC and medicine at UIC. New buildings include an Advanced Computing and Communications Technology Lab (ECE) at UIUC—an $80.9M building, $1.5M program and $1.9M O&M (operations and maintenance funds). College of Engineering has committed to raise $25M. UIC requests a Biomedical Genomics building at $75M plus $1.5M program and $3.5 O&M. A speed up in acquisition of land and movement of the south farms south of Windsor Road is proposed. (The most offensive olfactory sources to be moved first.)

The discussion resulted in an item being prepared Wednesday night and added to the Board’s agenda at Item 8 on Thursday. See that section of this report.

Meeting of the Board of Trustees, 3-50-4:15 p.m.
Pat Langley updated the Board on the status of the search for the UIS Chancellor. (She was asked to remain available for the Executive Session.) She gave the Board a statement of campus needs. The goal is to improve the quality of the campus educational program by integrating old and new programs, increasing enrollment, emphasizing public affairs, promoting the campus, attracting funds, and using new technology for teaching scholarship and public service. The Trustees endorsed the UIS statement and suggested the UIC Search Committee develop a similar document to share. At the moment there are 32 candidates, 48 nominees not yet candidates, (both categories include non-traditional candidates) and more applications are expected. The goal is for Dec. 7-8 interviews.

It was announced the report on the Chief would be mailed to Trustees around October 17 and the report will be on the web. The Trustees will hear the report on Nov. 8 and ask questions. Then the Board will reflect: it may be March or so before they respond. Some Trustees stressed with regard to the UIUC Chancellor Search that the applicant’s stance on the Chief not become a relevant factor.

The Board went into an executive session, which had been scheduled to end by 3:30 p.m.

Meeting of the Board of Trustees, 8:40-8:50 a.m.
At the public comment session, a UIC student spoke against sweatshops

Committee on Building and Grounds, 8:50-9:15 a.m.
UIUC site for expanded Child Develop Lab approved; informational presentation on a new Magnetic Resonance Imaging facility for Chicago; Capital Projects Status Report, Report of Capitol Project Approval and items on the regular Board agenda noted.

Committee on University Hospital and Clinics 9:15-9:35 a.m.
Update on the UIC Medical Center Budget noted a deficit of $2.3M rather than $600K estimated due in part to need to hire nurses on a temporary basis. Other hospitals are also having financial difficulties. The Miles Square facility showed a small surplus this last 6 months. There is an effort to restructure the Miles Square Advisory Board. Dissolution of the UIHMO Inc., Chicago
that appeared on the regular Board agenda is contingent on finding a suitable insurance program for UIC students currently under that program. (The Board then took a 25-minute recess.)

Meeting of the Board of Trustees, 10:00-10:50 a.m.
Item 8 added to the Board Agenda as a result of Wednesday’s discussion sought approval of Fiscal Year 2000 Requests for Special Initiative Requests for Operating and Capital Funds. This provided that the University explore all mechanisms that can provide support for its multiple missions and for economic development opportunities that could enhance the Illinois economy. There was specific reference to agricultural research and development and endorsement of Illinois AgriFIRST. In the agricultural initiative for FY 02 and beyond funds sought totaled $241.7M of state funds and matching $68.7M from UI/Private sources.

Funds sought from Illinois VentureTECH include $500K increase for UIUC Incubator; $1M increase for Illinois Ventures program, the $80M for Advanced Computer and Communication Lab, and $75M for Biomedical Genomics Lab at UIC the latter two involving matches respectively of $25M and $20M of non-state funds. These are in addition to the IBHE budget request approved in September. While a “big order for us” we need to aim high.

The Board turned to its regular agenda opening with the announcement by Sylvia Manning that Stanley O. Ikenberry will give the David Dodds Henry Lecture in Chicago on November 2.

The Board Chair suggested given the issues that arose Wednesday that the Secretary of the Board be kept informed of meetings by sub-units or individual Trustees that are concerned with University business and that each week Trustees receive notice of them. Others felt that the Board already receives too much material and opposed the idea. No conclusion was reached.

The Board moved through the regular agenda and roll call without discussion

Ken Andersen
Senate Observer