

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Urbana Senate Observer
(Final; Information)

SC.19.19 Report on the on the January 31, 2019 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System in Chicago

This meeting of the Board of Trustees was delayed until the afternoon, and was also shortened, due to the extreme cold in Chicago the week of 28 January. The public meeting was convened at 12:10 by trustee Ramon Cepeda. Also present were trustees Edwards, Estrada, Humphrey, King, McMillan, Mitchell, Newsome, and Smart. Trustee Cepeda noted that this is the annual meeting at which a new chair is elected, and that the one new trustee who was present, Ricardo Estrada, would be inducted. The other new trustees were not present.

Trustee Cepeda reported on a recent trip to India, during which nine letters of understanding for collaboration between the University of Illinois and major universities and scholarly entities of India were signed.

UIC Chancellor Amiridis welcomed the Board and visitors.

President Killeen summarized the accomplishments of the past year, thanking the trustees for their role in these achievements. President Killeen also thanked outgoing trustees Koritz, Montgomery, and Fitzgerald, for their years of service, and noted that there have been relatively few trustees for the University of Illinois System: a total of 273 over the 152 years since 1867, with an addition of approximately 100 student trustees (whose terms are one year). He noted that during this time, the University of Illinois has graduated 743,000 students, which approximates the current population of Denver.

President Killeen then noted some of the highlights for the University of Illinois System in in 2018: Reuters ranks it 25th among all world universities. Enrollment is increasing at all three universities, with UIC having the greatest gains. UIC also acquired a law school through its merger with the John Marshall School of Law. UIS opened its new Student Union. UIUC increased the diversity of its student body, as well as increasing the percent of Illinoisans among the students in one of the 10 largest freshman classes it has ever enrolled. Also at UIUC, the Carle-Illinois School of Medicine enrolled its first class; and the Krannert Center turned 50. Killeen also reiterated the Illinois Commitment: that no tuition will be paid by UIUC students form households with an income of less than \$61,000.

For the UI System, Killeen noted that enrollment is close to 86,000 students, and that applications are up at all three universities. He pointed out that, since next year will be the fifth consecutive year without an increase in tuition, the same tuition will be paid by students who are seniors in 2022 as was paid by freshmen in 2014. There is good news on the budget: state support for the System will increase by approximately 2% this year, after 10 years of declining support. Although less than requested, this increase marks a major step for the state's commitment to higher education.

Fundraising is also proceeding well: almost two billion dollars have been contributed this year, including \$300,000,000 for DPI (Discovery Partners Institute). DPI has an interim director, Bill Sanders, and partnerships are being developed both with universities outside the state (including Tel Aviv University and Hebrew University in Israel) and within the state (NIU). The Distinguished

Faculty hiring initiative is proving highly successful: 14 nominees have already accepted. In addition, the System is investing \$2,000,000 in the Arts and Humanities, and has constructed a major plan for facilities renovation and construction, at the request of the Board of Trustees.

Committee reports followed; like the meeting of the entire Board, committee meetings were in some cases shortened because of the weather, and committee reports consisted of the numbers of items passed. These items were voted on later during the meeting.

There were public comments from several people.

Helen Randolph (Chicago), owner of 3R Health Care Pharmacy, noted that the University's business practices discriminate against businesses like hers, which is a BEP certified pharmacy, yet has been unable to do business with UI. She requests fairness, saying that a vendor (McKesson) violated state law because a white female (presumably Ms. Randolph) was "given a pass" in favor of an African-American; moreover, she asserted that McKesson is "the sole contractor, in violation of the law".

Wally O'Day stated that he once owned two pharmacies, but lost them in 2017, due to unethical practices (by other parties). He has tried to work with Medline on a possible collaboration, but could not make it work, despite the necessary minority participation (for BEP certification?). He noted that minorities find it difficult to compete against the "big guys" and asked if there were a penalty for the university "for not meeting the goals", and also asked what small businesses need to do to improve the state of minority businesses in Illinois. He finished by asking the Board to make contractors meet the BEP goals: to hold the big contractors accountable.

Brittany Hudson identified herself as the parent of a gymnast, Satchel, who started at UIC, but transferred to UIUC the gymnastics was ended at UIC. She said that the timing of the termination of the gymnastics program was awkward: although her son was able to transfer to UIUC, which still has a gymnastics team, they are still paying for a housing contract at UIC. And, even though he has found someone to sublease the unit, UIC would not let him do so, but required him to pay for the entire year. She pleaded for help in voiding the dorm contract, which is too expensive for her son.

The next item of business was election of the new chair of the Board of Trustees. Trustee McMillan nominated Donald J. Edwards, noting that he was a UIUC alumnus. There were no further nominations, and trustee Edwards was elected by voice vote, unanimously. Patricia Holmes and Ramon Cepeda were nominated to the Executive Committee by Jill Smart, and elected without opposition. Deidre Williams, for secretary; Avijit Ghosh, comptroller, and Thomas Barrows as Counsel, were nominated and re-elected to their Board offices as a group. The treasurer, Lester McKeever, was also re-elected, and it was noted that he has been treasurer for 25 years: since 1994.

The final item of business was the passing or items forwarded by committees. All items passed, either by voice vote or by roll call, as required for these items.

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Bettina Francis
Chair, Senate Executive Committee