

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Urbana Senate Observer
(Final; Information)

SC.18.12 Report on the on the May 17, 2018 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System

The Board met in closed session before the public meeting, which began at 9:30.

Chair Koritz announced that the next meeting is in Urbana on 19 July, followed by the Board Retreat on 20 July.

President Killeen's opening comments noted that the 22,000 students who graduated from the UI System this year made this the 7th year that UI has conferred more than 20,000 degrees. Moreover, this new record reflects the System's 20% growth over the past decade. Enrollment remains the surest sign of growth, and numbers are robust, with freshman enrollment up 6% across the system, and an increased number of Illinois residents. He wishes to extend the tuition freeze for another year to protect this growth. Construction projects of approximately a quarter of a billion dollars are in progress, all undertaken without state funding. However, the University did receive a budget last year, which is good news. Now is also the time to invest in our faculty, who are a major part of attracting students. Over the past years of budget uncertainty, we have lost faculty, which cuts to the core of our mission, and influences our reputation. We must invest in our faculty; the first of the Stellar Faculty hires will be announced soon. We also need to hire at the Assistant Professor level to assure our future excellence. There will be a 5 year goal of increasing faculty hiring.

UIS **Chancellor Koch** welcomed everyone and gave an overview of recent accomplishments at UIS: the new Student Union, which is to be designated as a Leadership in Energy And Environmental Design (LEED) building, and which was built with student - not state – funds; a new property on the lake that is designated a field station, but that will also be used to teach classes – some are already scheduled for fall; and the Lincoln Studies Center.

Goals for UIS are growth, increased visibility, attracting and retaining high caliber faculty, and additional buildings. Both the number of freshmen and the number of transfer students are up in 2018. The UIS portion of the current fundraising campaign stands at 54% of the goal. Increased visibility includes hosting an NCAA Division 2 finals.

James Moore, president of the UI Foundation, spoke about the Foundation. He noted that its sole goal is to advance the mission of the UI System. The current marketing campaign is "Altogether Extraordinary"; like all campaigns, its goal is enhancing the student and faculty experience at U of I, and to raise awareness even beyond the end of the campaign.

The overall goal is to raise \$3.1 billion. So far, \$7 million have been raised across the system. He provided statistics for Urbana: an overall goal of raising \$2.25 billion (59% of the goal for the System); cash is up 8%, new business is up 117%. The campaign is focusing on endowments in this campaign. He also noted that the 1st class of the Carle-Illinois medical school enters this fall; the hope is that, as alumni are produced, gifts will follow.

He also provided statistics for UIC (goal of \$750 million) and UIS (goal of \$40 million).

Chair Koritz commented that he has heard that there is an increase in the number of people wishing to donate land to UI, and suggested it is due to the changes made in how tenants are selected.

Committee reports were submitted.

1. Audit, Budget, Finance and Facilities: the committee recommended approval for 10 capital projects, real estate items, and the operating budget. The Committee agrees that it needs more rigorous analysis of items for its reviews for future decision making. There is still discussion of the University assuming health care costs for its employees.
2. Governance, Personnel, Ethics: only the numbers of items were mentioned; BoT website must be consulted for actual topics. Currently focusing on 2019 budget. It was noted that student advocacy resulted in 730 letters being sent to legislators to fund higher education.
3. Academic and Student Affairs: approved: a new Dean for the UIC School of Architecture, various academic program changes, transportation contracts; and installed Sheila Humphrey of UIS as a new student trustee. Also thanked current student trustees for their service (UIUC Trayshawn Mitchell continues; UIC's Karina Reyes is leaving. Trustee Jill Smart installed the new UIS student trustee, Shaina Humphrey.

Koritz introduced the "faculty report", given by USC member Ranjan Karri (of UIS), who gave an overview of faculty (rank, tenured and tenure-track, gender); discussed "challenging trends" – increasing enrollment, faculty count (declining), salaries, retirement numbers (movement from Tier 1 means less money coming in to fund that 'pot'), health care concerns; problems of retention and morale at all 3 campuses.

Public Comment: 4 members of the public had signed up to speak. Three spoke on the issue of Native American imagery at UI.

1. Speaker 1: asked that the University create a "meaningful relationship" with the Peoria tribe of Oklahoma, using this to create a new version of Chief Illiniwek's regalia and dance, as well as a scholarship for Native Americans.
2. Speaker 2, from North Dakota, stated Native American ancestry; considers it acceptable to honor tradition, but requests respect in representation. Does not wish eradication of all Native American names and images. Does not support 'mascots' but does support authentic representation.
3. Speaker 3 also supported use of accurate names, images. Argued that 'liberal professors' have a negative mindset in attempting to protect Native Americans by erasing images. Considers that commitment to diversity requires authenticity, not 'eradication'.
4. Local minority contractor returned to call for opportunities for minority contractors at UIUC. There has been no response to his previous requests for consideration of his concerns.

Regular Agenda: all items passed, most by Roll Call Agenda voting.

A few closing comments and announcements end the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Bettina Francis, Chair, Senate Executive Committee