

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE  
URBANA SENATE OBSERVER  
(Final; Information)

SC.21.12 Report on the July 22, 2021 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System in Chicago

The meeting was held in person and the video of the meeting can be found here:  
[https://uis.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/University%20of%20Illinois%20Board%20of%20Trustees%20Meeting%20-%20July%2022%2C%202020/1\\_bryow8dh](https://uis.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/University%20of%20Illinois%20Board%20of%20Trustees%20Meeting%20-%20July%2022%2C%202020/1_bryow8dh)

Chairman Donald J. Edwards called the meeting of the Board of Trustees as the sole member of Wolcott, Wood and Taylor, Inc. (WWT) to order. After roll call of attendance, Chairman Edwards informed the board that the annual report of WWT has been submitted and received and it is made available in their board package. The minutes from the previous meeting of the WWT was then approved through voice vote. The meeting of the Board of Trustees as the sole member of WWT Inc was then adjourned and the meeting of the Board of Trustees convened and moved directly into a closed, executive session.

The open meeting resumed. Chairman Edwards welcomed and introduced the three new student members (for AY 2021-22) to the board.

Two UIC faculty members (Nicolas Carson and Jordan Camps) performed the Illinois song (via Zoom video).

President Tim Killeen introduced guests and observers before sharing his opening comments. In his remarks, President Killeen started by expressing gratitude to the “lifeboat” of online technology during the last 18 pandemic months, to the extraordinary efforts by everyone—faculty, staff, and students—to provide a safe environment, and to the fact that we are approaching a fall where a more normal teaching environment seems within reach. President Killeen also provided an update on the 10-year, \$4bn, 500+ new projects in the comprehensive infrastructure initiative begun in 2018—including finished and in-progress new buildings—as it is developing on each of the three campuses. Overall, in the course of the last three years, 140 projects have been completed (at the cost of \$920 million) and 200 more (cost \$1.5bn) are underway. President Killeen also emphasized the progression of the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI), which this year served 500+ students from underrepresented groups and next year aims to double this number.

Chancellor Amiridis then welcomed the board to the UIC campus and provided an update on UIC. He emphasized UIC’s efforts at distributing vaccination doses and the high building activity as well as record high levels of enrollments, external research funding, royalty revenues, and

two large private gifts to support the university's education efforts (used primarily to promote women in engineering and first-generation, low-income students).

Professor Magic Wade, as outgoing chair, presented the year-end report from the University Senates Conference (USC). In her report, Professor Wade focused on questions of what we need for a system of shared governance and how the USC contributes to it. She emphasized that a well-functioning, harmonious system requires the productive collaboration between faculty, staff, students, administrators, stakeholders and the public—and that the USC is entrusted by the UI Statutes to facilitate shared governance at the system level. The USC is an advisory board made up by faculty members representing all the campuses and disciplines—from education, history, library and computer science, engineering, and law to theatre, health science, political science, and philosophy. Professor Magic explained how much work of the USC this year has focused on challenges regarding planning and mitigation of Covid19, on diversity, equity, and inclusion, on student and employee mental health, and on structural economic and demographic pressures, as well as on opportunities in relation to technological and social innovation (eg. DPI, IIN, IGPA, SHIELD, and clinical vaccine trials), system initiatives (eg. Celebrating the Arts and Humanities initiative, the Distinguished Faculty Recruitment Program, the Public Voices Fellowship), and partnerships at the state (DPI, Discovery Accelerator Institute, SHIELD Illinois), federal (Higher Education Emergency Grants), and private (Altogether Extraordinary fundraising campaign and Mackenzie Scott UIC “Student Success Fund”) levels. Professor Wade also emphasized how all USC members have their “ears to the ground” in combination with serving on external committees (such as the Student Mental Health Summit Working Group, the Excellent Amid Covid-19 Steering Committee, the DPI Executive Committee, the Enrollment Management Policy Committee, and the Digital Accessibility Policy Group) and on search committees (such as the VP of Communication and External Relations, the Chief Digital Risk Officer, and the USC Office Manager). Other areas where USC faculty share their expertise, listen to others, and participate in developing our institutions of shared governance include contributions to revising DPI bylaws, to system-wide policy consultation guidelines, the executive committee of the DPI, examination of problems regarding systemic racism and racial justice during annual retreat, revisions to the Statutes, participation in the President’s Executive Leadership Program, and promotion of budget transparency and literacy with CFO’s office. This previous year, the USC also provided consultation and advice on other matters of shared governance, such as appointments (of the Interim EVP, CFO, DPI Director, VP for Econ Devel.), various policies (regarding, for example, residency, parental leave benefits, and digital accessibility), initiatives to promote DEI and mentorship for junior faculty, and future challenges and opportunities in higher education (such as the Binational Great Lakes Higher Education Consortium, The UI System President’s Advisory Council, and the Mexican and Mexican-American Student Initiative). Professor Wade concluded her report by reflecting on what she has learned from her time at the USC. She said that it is her firm impression that the number one thing that all faculty want is excellence in teaching and research. To facilitate this, many USC conversations have emphasized the importance of being able to retain our excellent faculty, to provide faculty with stimulating ladders of opportunity and growth, to elevate the liberal arts alongside STEM so that they can work together to enable the university to be a leader of technological and social innovation, to never lose sight of the

importance of genuinely caring about the safety and mental health of our faculty, staff, and students, including by valuing mentorship, service, and DEI work. Finally, Professor Wade expressed gratitude for the many inspiring conversations with many of the different stakeholders and actors in the university system, from the president, chancellors, and provosts to the Board of Trustees, the DPI and the IGPA Directors to enrollment managers, government relations people, financial officers, public safety leaders, racial justice scholars, and student representatives. After her presentation, Chairman Edwards thanked Professor Wade for her excellent service as the Chair of the USC, gifted her with a clock as a token of the university's appreciation, and remarked that he has never experienced as productive collaboration across the university system as it currently is.

The four Board Committees then provided short reports from their most recent meetings.

- Trustee Cepeda (Chair, the Audit, Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee) reported. (The video of this committee meeting can be found here: [https://uis.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/University%20of%20Illinois%20Board%20of%20Trustees%2C%20ABFF%20Meeting%20-%20July%2012%2C%202020/1\\_hiunkupv](https://uis.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/University%20of%20Illinois%20Board%20of%20Trustees%2C%20ABFF%20Meeting%20-%20July%2012%2C%202020/1_hiunkupv))
- Trustee King (Chair, University Healthcare System Committee) reported. (The video of this committee meeting can be found here: [https://uis.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/University%20of%20Illinois%20Board%20of%20Trustees%2C%20UHS%20Meeting%20-%20July%2021%2C%202020/1\\_5ihkbfzm](https://uis.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/University%20of%20Illinois%20Board%20of%20Trustees%2C%20UHS%20Meeting%20-%20July%2021%2C%202020/1_5ihkbfzm))
- Trustee Estrada (Chair, Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee) reported. (The video of this meeting can be found here: [https://uis.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/University%20of%20Illinois%20Board%20of%20Trustees%2C%20GPE%20Meeting%20-%20July%2021%2C%202020/1\\_1nciv45u](https://uis.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/University%20of%20Illinois%20Board%20of%20Trustees%2C%20GPE%20Meeting%20-%20July%2021%2C%202020/1_1nciv45u))
- Trustee Edwards (Chair, Academic and Student Affairs Committee) reported. (The video of this committee meeting can be found here: [https://uis.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/University%20of%20Illinois%20Board%20of%20Trustees%2C%20ASAC%20Meeting%20-%20July%2021%2C%202020/1\\_nmk18mi6](https://uis.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/University%20of%20Illinois%20Board%20of%20Trustees%2C%20ASAC%20Meeting%20-%20July%2021%2C%202020/1_nmk18mi6))

There were no public comments.

The following items on the regular agenda were approved through voice vote:

#### **Regular Agenda**

- A1. Approve Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

(The following recommendation had been reviewed by the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee prior to advancement to the Board as a Whole:)

01. Appoint Vice Chancellor for Strategic Marketing and Communications, Chicago
02. Appoint Member to the Board of Managers of Illinois Ventures, LLC
03. Establish the University of Illinois Liaison Office in New Delhi, India, with a Branch Office in Bengaluru, India
04. Appoint Authorized Representative of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois for the University of Illinois Liaison Office in New Delhi, India
05. Authorize Formation of Wholly Foreign Owned Enterprise to Promote University Outreach and Activities in Shanghai, China
06. Resolution to Adopt SURS 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan

(The following recommendation had been reviewed by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee prior to advancement to the Board as a Whole:)

07. Appointments to the Faculty, Administrative/Professional Staff, and Intercollegiate Athletic Staff

(The following recommendations had been reviewed by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee prior to advancement to the Board as a Whole:)

08. Appoint Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Illinois, Chicago
09. Extend Term, Dean, College of Media, Urbana
10. Appoint Dean, College of Education, Chicago
11. Appoint Acting Dean, Graduate College, Chicago
12. Appoint Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Springfield
13. Promotions in Academic Rank and Change in Tenure, 2021-2022

14. Award Honorary Degree, Chicago
15. Establish the Master of Health Administration Degree and Change the Degree Designation Associated with the Health Administration Major, College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana
16. Establish the Bachelor of Science in Accountancy + Data Science, Gies College of Business, Urbana
17. Establish the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Astronomy + Data Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana
18. Establish the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Astrophysics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana
19. Establish the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science + Education, College of Education, Urbana
20. Establish the Master of Science in CyberGIS and Geospatial Data Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana
21. Establish the Bachelor of Science in Finance + Data Science, Gies College of Business, Urbana
22. Establish the Bachelor of Science in Information Sciences + Data Science, School of Information Science, Urbana
23. Establish the Master of Science in Predictive Analytics and Risk Management, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana
24. Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Global Asian Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago
25. Establish the Bachelor of Science in Real Estate, College of Business Administration, Chicago
26. Establish the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering, Chicago

27. Consolidate, Rename, and Revise the Master of Science in Anatomy and Cell Biology, Master of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Master of Science in Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology, Master of Science in Microbiology and Immunology, Master of Science in Pathology, and Master of Science in Physiology and Biophysics, College of Medicine and Graduate College, Chicago
28. Consolidate, Rename, and Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Anatomy and Cell Biology, Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, Doctor of Philosophy in Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology, Doctor of Philosophy in Microbiology and Immunology, Doctor of Philosophy in Pathology, and Doctor of Philosophy in Physiology and Biophysics, College of Medicine and the Graduate College, Chicago
29. Change the Status and Rename the Department of Political Science to Establish the School of Politics and International Affairs, College of Public Affairs and Administration, Springfield
30. Merge the Departments of Human Services and Public Administration to Establish the School of Public Management and Policy and Transfer the Doctorate of Public Administration to the School of Public Management and Policy, College of Public Affairs and Administration, Springfield
31. Merge the Departments of Teacher Education and Educational Leadership to Establish the School of Education, College of Education and Human Services, Springfield
32. Eliminate the City Design Center, College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts, Chicago
33. Approve Revisions to University of Illinois System Policy on Integrity in Research and Publication

(The following recommendations had been reviewed by the Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee prior to advancement to the Board as a Whole:

34. Appoint University of Illinois Banker in India for its Liaison Office in New Delhi, India, and Its Branch Office in Bangalore, India

The following items on the roll call agenda were then approved:

### **Roll Call Agenda:**

(The following recommendations had been reviewed by the Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee prior to advancement to the Board as a Whole:)

35. Award Contracts, Replace Mechanical-Equipment, Biologic Resources Laboratory, Chicago
36. Award Contracts, Ubben Basketball Complex Expansion, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, Urbana
37. Approve Project for Small Animal Clinic Oncology Center Addition, Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Urbana

(The following recommendation has been reviewed by the Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee and the University Healthcare System Committee prior to advancement to the Board as a Whole:)

38. Purchase Recommendations

In his closing comments, President Killeen described the last 18 months as a collective learning period serving as the stage for what comes next, namely the post-pandemic university system, which will not be exactly the same as pre-pandemic university. As was the case pre-pandemic, he argued that the university's aim in the post-pandemic period should be aspirational in nature. President Killeen also emphasized that in the next few months, the university will continue to be careful about health (as the pandemic evolves) by adjusting its policies as needed. He applauded Chancellor Amiridis for his leadership with regard to the Latinx population and borrowed his phrase of "Inclusive Excellence" (connecting excellence to participation) to describe central aspirations as we move forward. President Killeen also emphasized that the university's response to the pandemic has shown the power of interdisciplinary excellence. He explained that the SHIELD expertise is now available at 300 sites in Illinois and that all students (at all levels of education) can gain access to free testing. SHIELD expertise is also made available in other states and countries. He emphasized the value of existing and new partnerships (such as the new India and Mexico partnerships) and the very strong international reputation of the University of Illinois). He emphasized the importance of listening carefully to everyone, and though the university will proceed carefully, the future is bright.

Chairman Edwards used his closing remarks to express gratitude that it was possible for the meeting to be held in person and that along with the board, he is extremely proud of what the university—at all levels—has accomplished throughout the pandemic, as leaders in Illinois and in the world. He said that no university in the nation has as impressive a record regarding

safety, general performance, and contributions to the public good (in the state, nation, and around the world) as the U of I system during the pandemic period. He also emphasized that the Board will provide continued oversight and to do its duty of pushing the system toward continued excellence. Chairman Edwards also expressed gratitude to Governor Pritzker for his support of the university during this period. Trustee Dale joined him in expressing gratitude to the governor for his political leadership throughout this period.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17am.

Submitted,  
Helga Varden