

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

SC.24.08 Report on the May 18, 2023 Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System in Urbana

This meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois was called to order at 8:01 am by Chair Donald J. Edwards. The following members of the Board were present: Ramón Cepeda, Tami Craig Schilling, Donald J. Edwards, Joseph Gutman, Patricia Brown Holmes, Wilbur C. Milhouse III, System President Timothy Killeen, Rafael Camacho Jr. (Urbana voting student trustee), Will Formea (Springfield student trustee via Zoom), and Mohammed A. Haq (Chicago student trustee). Board officers included Lester H. McKeever Jr., Treasurer; Paul N. Ellinger, Comptroller (and Vice President/Chief Financial Officer); Thomas R. Bearrows, University Counsel; and Jeffrey A. Stein, Secretary of the Board of Trustees and the University.

At 8:03 am Chair Edwards asked for a motion to take the Board into Executive Session. The regular meeting resumed at 9:25 a.m., with all Board members recorded as being present at the start of the meeting. The meeting began with the singing of the State song, *Illinois*, by Héctor Camacho Salazar, Master of Music in Performance and Literature candidate, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

System President Killeen introduced the University officers and Senate observers from all three campuses and then gave opening remarks. Highlights of his remarks include:

- 18,000 students graduated from the University of Illinois System
- transformation and challenges face higher education; referred to the book, *The Great Upheaval: Higher Education's Past, Present, and Uncertain Future*, written by Arthur Levine and Scott Van Pelt
- high-quality leadership in the University System and the impact on higher education with many former leaders now at other institutions
- 2025 Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress will be held in Chicago
- applications, admissions, and enrollment have all increased; 94,800 students enrolled across the three universities last fall; enrollment has grown 22% over the past decade; four out of every five undergraduates are from Illinois
- 32 percent of students are from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, an increase of more than 60% over the past ten years
- plans are underway to add tenure track faculty, non-tenure track faculty, researchers
- the impact of the University of Illinois healthcare enterprise; one in five physicians in Illinois earned their degree at the UIC College of Medicine; UIC College of Nursing graduates more than 300 nurses a year; College of Dentistry has more than 500 students enrolled
- a growing collection of partnerships; highlighted international collaborations and the role of the Discovery Partners Institute and the Illinois Innovation Network

Chancellor Robert Jones was then asked to give remarks from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Highlights from his remarks include:

- Spring 2023 Commencement was attended by the largest crowd in the university's history; 6,000 graduates at Memorial Stadium and 20,000 attendees in the stands
- Jackie Joyner-Kersey served as the Commencement speaker
- 95% of last year's 2021-2022 class secured employment, additional education, or a volunteer position within six months of graduation
- 75% of Illinois residents remained in Illinois after graduation
- average starting salary reported by full-time employed bachelor's degree graduates was \$75,000 per year;
- national and international recognition of faculty; nominations to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Endowment for the Humanities; research and innovation within Illinois and beyond and highlighted the university's strength in multidisciplinary research
- recent appointment of deans, the university librarian, and the vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost;
- condolences for the passing of Jennifer Dillavou, president of the University of Illinois Alumni Association

Chair Edwards presented Gregory J. Knott with the Board of Trustees' Distinguished Service Medallion, an award recognizing individuals whose contributions to the University have been of unusual distinction. Knott is a two-time alumnus (Springfield and Urbana) and has held leadership and service positions with the University for more than 30 years. In June 2020 he was appointed Secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University.

Dr. Prasanta Kalita, Urbana professor of agricultural and biological engineering, gave a presentation on behalf of the University Senates Conference entitled, "A Day in the Life is a Week in the Life – Balancing the Multifaceted Responsibilities of Faculty." Kalita described the many job responsibilities of faculty, conveyed that the time commitment for each can vary, and described the impact of developing global challenges on areas of research.

Chair Edwards introduced committee chairs who gave brief comments about each committee (University Healthcare System Committee, Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee, Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee, Academic and Student Affairs Committee).

Edwards recognized two of the student trustees who are ending their service on the Board. He invited Tami Craig Schilling to give personal remarks and certificates to Rafael Camacho Jr. (Urbana) and Will Formea (Springfield via Zoom). Mohammed A. Haq (Chicago) will continue a second term next year.

Public comments followed. These included:

Nicholas Dale spoke to the Board about the sidewalks at the State Farm Center at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and how they lack wheelchair accessibility in certain locations.

Ricky Baldwin addressed the Board with his concern of campus services that are being filled by external contractors in Chicago and Urbana, and the low quality of work being executed by these contractors.

Anna Warshay conveyed her dismay with the Urbana campus's lack of action regarding anti-Semitic actions and speech. She remarked that Jewish students feel excluded and pointed out that the campus lacks a cultural center. She asked the Board to take steps to combat anti-Semitism and support Jewish students, staff, faculty, and their families.

After a short break, the meeting continued. Javier A. Reyes, outgoing Interim Chancellor at the University of Illinois Chicago, was thanked by the Board for his leadership and service and given many well wishes for his new position at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Next on the agenda were the actionable items to be approved. These included new appointments of faculty, administrative/professional staff, athletic staff, and officers; changes to academic appointments, resignations, notices of nonappointment, retirees rehired; various reports; new, revised, and/or eliminated academic programs; budget and capital projects, etc., in addition to a change in the minimum required hours for transfer students attending Springfield, and modifications to parental leave and funeral/bereavement leave.

The following students were elected to a position on the Board for next year. Sanchita Teeka will represent Urbana; she is in her second year at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign pursuing a dual major in Finance and Psychology, in a Pre- Law track. Mohammed A. Haq will represent Chicago again; he is a senior majoring in Biological Sciences and minoring in Political Science. Kyle Ingram will represent Springfield; he is a junior majoring in Business Administration.

President Killeen thanked the Board for their support and also extended his sympathy to the family of Jennifer Dillavou, president of the University of Illinois Alumni Association. Chair Edwards congratulated the golf teams at Urbana and Springfield and thanked Dr. Reyes for serving as Interim Chancellor at UIC. He encouraged Board members to attend future Commencement ceremonies.

There was no old business nor new business presented. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for July 20, 2023, in Chicago. A motion to adjourn was made at 11:32 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Moorhouse  
Senate Representative  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign