

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**

URBANA SENATE OBSERVER

(Final; Information)

SC.24.14 Report on the September 21, 2023 Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System in Urbana

Chair Don Edwards called the meeting to order at 8:07 AM and then moved to an executive session that adjourned at 9:11 AM.

The regular meeting resumed at 9:31 AM with the arrival of Governor J. B. Pritzker. Chair Edwards welcomed Governor Pritzker and noted that it had been nearly a decade since a sitting governor attended a University of Illinois Board of Trustees meeting. Chair Edwards expressed appreciation for the Governor's support.

The state song was performed by the University of Illinois Black Chorus.

After introducing Mr. Martin Torres, deputy governor for education, Chair Edwards asked President Killeen to give some opening remarks.

President Tim Killeen welcomed Governor Pritzker as a trusted partner and valued leader in shaping the future of Illinois and the University. He praised the governor's commitment to reinvesting in public higher education and highlighted the University's graduation rate and strong retention of graduates in the state. He thanked the governor for his support during the COVID-19 pandemic and described their collaboration on initiatives such as the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI) and the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN).

President Killeen introduced Dr. Celest Weuve, chair of University Senates Conference who also thanked Governor Pritzker for his support, noting the increase in State appropriation to the Illinois system. On behalf of the faculty, USC Chair Weuve presented Governor Pritzker with a letter of appreciation. President Killeen again thanked Governor Pritzker for his attendance.

Chair Edwards discussed the importance of the alignment between the trustees and leadership on the University's core mission and thanked Governor Pritzker for investing in public higher education in Illinois.

Governor Pritzker emphasized the University of Illinois's importance to Illinois, highlighted its increasing enrollment and affordability efforts, and commended its research and innovation initiatives. He acknowledged the significance of AI and expressed confidence that the University is positioned to lead in this area.

Chair Edwards thanked the Governor for his remarks and began a discussion of issues and opportunities facing public education in Illinois, focusing first on accessible and affordable education of the highest quality. Chair Edwards noted that Governor Pritzker's support reversed a 40-year decline in State funding to the University.

Ms. Craig Schilling, trustee and chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, gave comments emphasizing the importance of enrollment and recruitment for the University of Illinois System, highlighting the record-breaking freshman class and the positive impact of the university on its graduates. Chair Edwards echoed these remarks. Governor Pritzker, Chair Edwards, and Ms. Schilling discussed factors that influence attendance.

Chancellor Robert J. Jones thanked Governor Pritzker for his support, then discussed faculty hiring and its link to increased enrollment.

Mr. Wilbur Milhouse, trustee, remarked on economic impact, highlighting the positive impact the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has on the large number of African American-owned firms in the state. President Killeen noted the large contribution the University System makes to the state's economy. Chair Edwards and Governor Pritzker noted the importance of collaborations and partnerships with other institutions.

Mr. Mohammed Haq, student trustee, asked about affordability. Governor Pritzker noted considerations including increases in MAP funding.

Chair Edwards again stressed appreciation for the increase in State funding for the University before Governor Pritzker left the meeting and the Board recessed at 10:43 AM.

The meeting resumed at 10:53 AM and President Killeen introduced guests and observers. President Killeen highlighted record enrollment numbers and had Chancellor Marie Lynn Miranda comment on the diverse students at Chicago, including 46 percent of freshman who are first-generation students. President Killeen noted University of Illinois Springfield's 11 percent enrollment gain and Chancellor Janet L. Gooch commented on the positive impact these gains have for Springfield. President Killeen reported that the System-wide graduate rate is 77 percent, and that 70 percent of graduates choose to stay in the state of Illinois.

Chancellor Jones discussed Urban's largest freshman class, 74 percent from Illinois, together with an all-time high undergraduate enrollment, while ranking 12<sup>th</sup> among public university according to *U.S. News and World Report*. Chancellor Jones also reported on research and scholarship, and two special advisor appointments. Dr. Cynthia Oliver, professor of dance, will serve as special advisor to the chancellor for arts integration. Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, professor of atmospheric science, will serve as special advisor to the chancellor for science and policy.

Dr. Paul Ellinger, comptroller, presented the Fiscal Year 2024 operations budget summary.

Dr. Weuve gave the University Senates Conference report and highlighted the members of USC.

Four Board Committee reports provided background to various items on the action agenda for today. Chair Edwards noted that all committees met the previous day.

- Trustee Donald Edwards, Chair, University Healthcare System Committee
- Trustee Joseph Gutman, Chair, Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee
- Trustee Donald Edwards, Vice Chair, Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee
- Trustee Tami Craig Schilling, Chair, Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Public comments were presented, for five minutes each. Ms. Sarah Rochnowski, a resident of Champaign, spoke about the difficulties of volunteering for the University.

Several action items were approved.

The following recommendations have been reviewed by the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee prior to advancement to the Board as a Whole:

1. Approve Academic and Administrative Appointments for Academic Year 2023-2024
2. Amend Multiyear Contract with Head Coach, Women's Basketball, Chicago

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

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

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

4. Appoint Dean, College of Law, Urbana
5. Appoint Interim Dean, Graduate College, Chicago

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

6. Approve Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024
7. Approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Services and Management Agreement for the University of Illinois Foundation

8. Delegate Authority to the Comptroller to Initiate a Public-Private Partnership Pre-Development Process and to Enter Into Related Agreements to Construct the Grenshaw Street Parking Structure, Chicago
9. Approve Construction Manager Contract for Renovate Taft Hall, Chicago Approve Design for Innovation Center Expansion, Chicago
10. Approve Design for Innovation Center Expansion, Chicago
11. Employ Architect/Engineer for Renovation of the UIS Innovation Center, Springfield
12. Purchase recommendations

Several reports for information were given.

13. Changes to Senate Bylaws, Office of the Senate, Urbana-Champaign
14. Derivatives Use Report
15. Diversity Report to the Board of Trustees
16. Diversity Report, Race and Gender for Active Employees with Active Position and FTE Greater than 0%
17. Fuel Commitment Report
18. Performance Metrics
19. Office of Investments Annual Report
20. Second Quarter 2023 Investment Update
21. Secretary's Report
22. University Audits Annual Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

President Killeen closed by highlighting the governor's support for the University of Illinois System and its mission, emphasizing the institution's role in redefining the land-grant model for the 21st century, and expressing appreciation for the support of the Board.

Chair Edwards commented on the historic nature of the meeting and noted that it demonstrated the alignment that he spoke of earlier. He thanked everyone for attending, and for their hard work.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Submitted,  
David Dalpiaz