

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

SC.26.27 Report on the July 16, 2026, Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System in Urbana

University of Illinois Board of Trustees – Meeting Highlights

<https://www.trustees.uillinois.edu/trustees/minutes/2026/July-16-2026-BOT.pdf>

1. Opening Remarks: Chairman Jesse H. Ruiz

2. Installation of New Student Trustees

3. Introduction of Rachel Gladd to perform State Song: Illinois

4. Introduction of Senate Observers and Academic Professional Staff

Urbana: Angela Lyons

Springfield: Matthew Geras (remote)

Chicago: Sandra De Groote

USC: Linda Moorhouse

Academic Professional Staff: Eric Kurt

5. President Killeen's Remarks

- <https://www.trustees.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/July-16-2026/p-July-26-president-report.pptx>
- President Killeen presented a hopeful message of the work of our three campuses in helping people to “thrive”
- He took us along a journey, asking the audience to imagine and trace the daily impacts we have on our local communities, the state, the nation, and the world
 - Pick a county – the impact of our university system on daily life in our communities; you can’t spend a day in Illinois without experiencing the ripple effects of the University of Illinois
 - Learning at every stage of life – partnerships with community colleges
 - A healthier Illinois – our impact on people and communities through training and care
 - Well-being, from the ground up – environmental and agricultural impacts, sustainability, and urban environments
 - Informing policy that shapes Illinois and the nation
 - Woven into community life – a shoutout to the humanities and their role in our local communities, and how they enrich our lives

- A universe of impact – pulled it all together, highlighting the broader ripples of Illinois throughout the daily lives of the people we touch every day

6. Strategic Planning Update from Chancellor Isbell (UIUC)

- <https://www.trustees.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/July-16-2026/p-July-26-chancellor-welcome.pptx>
- Update on the Illinois Leads and Strategic Planning process
- Good ancestors – focus on people-centered, purpose-driven, value-based, ambitious, collaborative
- Recap of the process to date:
 - Illinois launched the **Illinois Leads** Strategic Planning Process December 2025.
 - Analyzing feedback from 8000+ students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community leaders.
 - Visualizing goals in a framework driven by that feedback.
 - Planning to launch a formal plan this Fall.
- **4 layers**
 - **Layer 0:** Foundation Systems: Data, finance, communications, operations, engagement, etc.
 What we heard: *“Across research, learning, and engagement, respondent named aging infrastructure, fragmented data, and inaccessible systems as recurring constraints on impact.”*
 - **Layer 1:** Goals, strategies, tactics; Current state versus desired state
 What we heard: *“The strategic plan should remain focused on the university’s core mission rather than trying to be everything to everyone.”*
 - **Layer 2:** People and coordination: Capability over complexity
 What we heard: *“I want to dream together, but I don’t know who to dream with.”*
 - **Layer 3:** Measurement, accountability, storytelling: A coherent account of institutional impact
 What we heard: *“We need to tell more stories about our entire enterprise and how it impacts the local community, region, and nation...and hold ourselves accordingly accountable.”*
 - Our University, community, stakeholders, and partners want us to lead.
- Looking ahead
 - **Illinois Leads** will establish the university’s goals within a strategic framework and commitment to the public good.
 - Allows colleges/units to do the same.
 - The framework is a loop: the impact captured at the close of one cycle becomes the evidence that shapes the next.
 - We continue to work with the steering group to analyze and develop the plan.
 - We are on our anticipated timeline.
 - Even after launch, the work will continue.

7. Strategic Planning Updates from Chancellor Gooch (UIS) and Chancellor Miranda (UIC)

- Chancellor Gooch – UIS will be starting its strategic planning process; the current plan ends in 2028
- Chancellor Miranda – UIC has a strategic planning task force; Steven Schwinn (a USC Member) is one of the Co-Chairs
 - 2 foundational efforts: Data and analysis; 2. Recruitment and retaining the best faculty and staff
 - 5 strategic priorities
 - Task force has 7 subcommittees
 - Task force to complete its work by December holiday

8. University Senates Conference (USC) Presentation

- Sandra De Groot, Chicago USC Member, presented to the BOT, title “University Senates Conference Activities – Year in Review”
 - <https://www.trustees.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/July-16-2026/p-July-26-USC-report.pptx>
 - Role of USC
 - USC External Representation
 - Examples of engagement with the Board
 - USC Presentations at BOT Meetings
 - Suggested faculty members for next U of I System President Search Committee
 - Smaller informal luncheons with Board members
 - Key discussion topics with leadership
 - USC Retreat
 - USC committee activities
 - Policy review and advice
 - USC Chair Opportunities (State Tour, Washington Advocacy Day)
 - BOT Chairman Ruiz and President Killeen thanked Dr. De Groot for her service and shared with her a small token of their appreciation

9. BOT Committee Reports

- 4 committee reports were briefly presented:
 - Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee (Trustee Gutman)
 - University Healthcare System Committee: Litigation (Trustee Ruiz)
 - Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities (Trustee Cepeda)
 - Academic and Student Affairs Committee (Trustee Craig Schilling)

10. Public Comment Session

- 4 public commentors; all were students from the UIUC campus
 - One student: Raised concerns related to disability and accessibility. Students have formed a group to review the accessibility of campus buildings and recommend new safety measures to administration (e.g., safety chairs in stairwells for evacuation, new evacuation protocols).

- Three students: Raised concerns about antisemitism on campus and a hostile campus environment for Jewish students and students supporting Israel.

11. Consideration of Agenda Items and Voting

- Regular Agenda, vote on items – unanimous approval
- Roll Call Agenda, vote on items – unanimous approval by roll call vote

12. Recess for LUNCH

13. Presentation to BOT by President and 3 Chancellors

- <https://www.trustees.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/July-16-2026/p-July-26-technology-presentation.pptx>
- Focus of the presentations were on AI and Technology
- How is AI affecting higher education.
- Collaborating to strengthen our future
- President Killeen presented “Harnessing the power of new technology for higher education”
 - Presentation highlighted strategic opportunities around AI for the University of Illinois System and set the stage for the presentations by the UIC, UIS, and UIUC Chancellors highlighting three specific areas of opportunity
- Chancellor Miranda presented “Data, Analysis, and AI as Strategic Assets”
- Chancellor Isbel presented “Human-centered AI: The Problem and the Promise”
- Chancellor Gooch presented “Preparing Learners and the Next Generation Workforce”

14. Other Reports and Comments

- Closing Remarks: Chairman Ruiz
- Closing Remarks: President Killeen
- There was no “Old Business” from Board Members
- There was no “New Business” from Board Members
- Announcements from Chair of the Board regarding upcoming meetings.

15. Executive Session

Submitted by Angela Lyons, Chair
2025-2026 Senate Executive Committee