

# Report of the March 9-10, 2010 Board of Trustees Meeting

SC.10.09

The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois met on March 9 and 10 on the Urbana campus of the University of Illinois. Following is a summary of the activities of the Board.

## **Tuesday March 9:**

Committee Meetings: The following committees of the Board met in the afternoon of March 9, 2010: the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee; the Hospital Committee; and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board received a number of presentations from guest speakers on faculty and scholarly work; recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty; faculty development through sabbatical study as well as remarks from student trustees on the above items.

## Reception and Presentations:

A reception and a series of PechaKucha style presentations were held at the iHotel in the evening. The presentations were given by several Urbana-Champaign faculty, staff and students. These short (five minutes) but concise and highly informative presentations gave the audience a quick glimpse of some of the accomplishments of the Urbana-Champaign campus community. Due to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City of Champaign, this event was held at the iHotel. A large audience of invited guests from campus and local communities including local government officials were present for this event. This activity received very high marks from the audience and generated much excitement among those present.

## **Wednesday March 10:**

The meeting of the Board began at 8AM with an executive session. The public portion of the Board meeting started at 9:25 AM at the iHotel. President Ikenberry welcomed the Board and introduced university and campus administrators as well as campus senate chairs and observers present.

Urbana campus Chancellor and Provost Robert Easter welcomed the Board as well and highlighted\* some of the outstanding accomplishments of the "Illinois Family." He reported that the Urbana campus had received about 27,000 applications which is anticipated to result in about 7,000 new freshmen students next Fall semester. He referred to the 31,000 undergraduates and 42,000 total students at the Urbana campus as the next generation of leaders. Chancellor Easter further reported that the Urbana campus received about 4,000 research awards this year with a total of about \$358 million. The campus also received about \$75 million in stimulus funds. According to Chancellor Easter, the campus saved about four million dollars in fuel and electricity expenditures this year relative to 2007. He further spoke about Stewarding Excellence @ Illinois and how the Urbana campus is ensuring a brighter future for *Illinois* despite the current difficult fiscal circumstances.

President Ikenberry reported on his recent meeting with the State's legislative and audit commission as well as other government leaders. He spoke about the Governor's budget recommendation for next year and added that we have been assured that the State will pay its \$500 million unpaid commitment to our university. President Ikenberry spoke about his revised support the State's authorizing public university's to receive authorization to borrow money to pay their bills in light of the State's cash crisis. President Ikenberry further reported on his meeting with the Board of Directors of University of Illinois Foundation on our ongoing fund raising efforts. He reported that our campaign to raise about \$2.25 billion is going better than expected. He suggested that we should have more control of our future finances. President Ikenberry spoke about the "Race to the Top" federal funding opportunity and noted that quality of education depends on more than higher education - - it depends on elementary and secondary education as well. He credited our success in the race thus far partly to our active participation in putting together a well-prepared very data-driven proposal.

In his other comments, President Ikenberry reported that he had discussed with chancellors and Vice President Rao ways that we can be more effective academically. He specifically pointed out three items of interest as follows. One: accelerated baccalaureate degrees - - we may be able to better utilize summer sessions, AP and dual credit courses, etc. to offer three year degrees which saves students time and money and result in earlier earnings by students. Two: enrollment in community colleges should be a vehicle for moving to higher education. He noted that community college is at an all-time high now and suggested that we work with the Community College Board and Chicago community colleges to take advantage of available opportunities. Three: He suggested that we look for synergies at U of I better than we have in the past to realize better utilization of our resources and to become more efficient and offer a more diverse education to our students.

The Audit, Finance and Facilities Committee and the University's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) reported next. In a presentation\* to the Board, Vice President and CFO Walter Knorr reported that higher education constitutes about 8.3% of the total State of Illinois' \$28.5 billion General Fund Appropriations during the FY 2010. Of this amount, U of I was offered 26.5%. VP Knorr stated that the State will have an estimated accumulated unpaid vouchers of nearly \$6 billion for the FY 2010. He further noted that the State's FY 2011 projected revenue shortfall may approach \$13 billion. Vice President Knorr discussed where our unrestricted instructional funds come from and how they are spent. Vice President Knorr's presentation continued with figures on cumulative change in State tax appropriations; unrestricted instructional funds as well as trends in UI direct State tax appropriations; tuition revenue; sponsored research funds; total research & development expenditures; utility budget versus actual expenditures; and information technology. The Board received presentations\* from two architectural firms on the design of the Electrical and Computer Engineering building at the Urbana campus and the UIC Cancer Research Facility in Peoria.

The Hospital Committee of the Board reported next. Joseph A. Flaherty, Dean of the College of Medicine offered an overview\* of the milestones in the history of the hospital. He further reported on the hospital's numerous significant accomplishments; vision; mission; enrollment history; and unique identity. He further reported on the hospital's vision of academic medical center of the future and Integrated Health Network. He ended his presentation with challenges the hospital is facing.

Following a lunch executive session, Trustee Karen Hasara reported on the activities of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board. Professor Kara Federmeier of the Department of Psychology at the Urbana campus was the Committee's guest speaker. She reported\* on how she utilized her sabbatical leave to conduct further research at a national center with access to unique facilities that she would otherwise not have had access to.

Vice President Meena Rao gave a presentation\* on diversity of the faculty at the University of Illinois and offered figures and trends about the diverse make up of our faculty on our three campuses. She presented charts that compare our faculty diversity to those of our peer institutions. VP Rao's report also included figures on diversity among our department heads and other administrators. She further reported on faculty development and success stories of our diverse faculty.

The Governance, Personnel and Ethics Committee reported next. University Ethics Officer Donna McNeely presented\* the 2009 annual report of the University's Ethics Office. She reviewed the Office's mission and its activities including ethics training.

Professor Nick Burbules of the Urbana campus read a statement on behalf of the University Senates Conference (USC). The USC statement offered hope that despite our very difficult financial crisis and the upcoming changes, we can plan to come out of these changes even better positioned as an institution.

The statement went on to emphasize shared governance, the sacrifices made by the faculty and the active role of the faculty in our handling of numerous situations in the past as well as the values that faculty can offer in our deliberations and decision making at the campus and university levels. Recognizing the fact that faculty membership on the Board of Trustees will require statutory changes and will take time, the USC statement asked the Board to consider inviting faculty representatives to join its committees as non-voting members in the meantime. Trustee Carlos Tortolero was quick to point out that faculty should be sitting at the Board table. Board Chair Kennedy thanked Professor Burbules and USC for sharing their thoughts with the Board and asked for time to discuss the matter with Board members privately and get back to USC.

During the Public Comments portion of the Board meeting the following presentations were made by previously registered guests. Two students spoke about the Chief; one student spoke about the Urbana campus' Explore ACES program; another student spoke about the upcoming Engineering Open House; Professor Ronald Jackson, Head of the Department of African American Studies spoke about the accomplishments of his department since it was established as a department; and Tom Korder, Vice Chair of the Council of Academic Professionals at the Urbana campus remarked on his organization's role in accomplishing the mission of the university.

The Board named a new residence hall after Timothy J. Nugent, founder of Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES). Mr. Nugent received a standing ovation from the Board and the audience in recognition of his significant contributions and his pioneering efforts in the field nationwide.

Richard Ringeisen was recognized by the Board for his contributions to the University during his tenure as the Chancellor for the Springfield campus. Ringeisen will step down from the UIS Chancellor position effective October 31, 2010.

The Board took action on a number of items including approvals of a number of program proposals. Please visit Senates Report at <http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/March%2010.%202010/> for a complete list of programs approved.

Respectfully submitted  
Abbas Aminmansour

\* Electronic version of presentation available through the Senate Office.