

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**

Urbana Senate Observer
(Final; Information)

SC.15.03 Report on the September 11, 2014 meeting of the Board of Trustees held at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am after a short board meeting of Wolcott, Wood and Taylor, which is the organization used to oversee billing for the hospital, and immediately went into executive session at 8:06 to consider:

- University employment and appointment related matters
- Pending, probable or imminent litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the university
- Collective negotiating matters

Executive session adjourned at 10:33 am and the open session resumed with a beautiful rendition of the state song by Professor Sarah Wigley-Johnson.

The board asked for a moment of silence to honor and remember the 9/11 victims. President Easter introduced the observers and Tom Hardy introduced members of the media.

Chancellor Wise welcomed the board to the campus, and reported on recent Urbana campus admissions data. She reported that over 150 new tenure-system faculty were hired, with a record number of new female faculty hired in Engineering (about half of their new hires). She also reported that the entering freshman class set records in attendance and GPA, but fell short of diversity targets. She then showed a short video used to welcome students to campus.

Committee reports followed on:

- Audit, Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee (Sep. 3, 2014) reported by Trustee McMillan
- Governance, Personnel and Ethics Committee (Aug. 28, 2014) reported by Trustee Strobel
- University Healthcare Systems Committee (Sep. 3, 2014) reported by Trustee Koritz

See <http://www.bot.uillinois.edu/committees> for further details on any of these three committees.

Of particular interest to the Urbana campus, the University Healthcare Systems Committee report mentioned a discussion of the Urbana campus's proposed College of Medicine, as well as the UIC counterproposal. The report explicitly stated that the committee neither endorsed nor discouraged the proposed College of Medicine. The report also included a \$40M budget shortfall of the UIC Hospital due to a decline in Medicaid, and this was being addressed by reducing expenses and increasing patients.

The board then opened the floor for public comment but asked speakers to limit themselves to five minutes each. The following comments were received.

- Prof. Anna Westerstahl Stenport of Scandinavian Studies, indicated she was unwilling to continue to help with fundraising for the university due to what she perceived as interference by the Board of Trustees regarding the Salaita issue.
- Ahmad Hamden, a senior in Chemical Engineering, spoke for students in favor of the University of Illinois hiring Prof. Salaita, and considered the decision not to approve his position a violation of the principles of Inclusive Illinois.
- David Beck, a staff representative of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), spoke in support of UI staff, reported that they felt largely unrespected and afraid to "speak up." He also reported that of all university employees ranked by salary, the top 1%

were paid in sum more than the bottom 10%, and the top 50 received an average raise of 16% whereas the bottom wage earners received raises averaging 3%.

- Prof. Robert Warrior, Director of American Indian Studies, spoke in support of Prof. Salaita, and indicated much of the controversy was due to mis-interpretations of Prof. Salaita's tweets.
- Josh Cooper, a senior in LAS, spoke for 1,300 students in support of Chancellor Wise and her decision that the University of Illinois not hire Prof. Salaita.
- David Downey (BS '63, JD '66), is a member of the UIF Board and the UIUC College of Business Overseers Board, spoke in support of President Easter, Chancellor Wise and in support of their decision that the University of Illinois not hire Prof. Salaita.

The board then approved the following resolutions by voice vote.

A1. Minutes of the July 24, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting

1. Appoint Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost
2. Reappoint Member to the Advisory Board, Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) in Springfield
3. Amend the Undergraduate Financial Aid Policy and Guidelines
4. Amend Energy Cost Management Policy

See <http://www.trustees.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/September-11-2014/> for further details on any of the resolutions (1-4) as well as the following resolutions (5-14).

The board then considered the following resolutions for approval by roll call.

5. Approve Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2015
6. Approve Academic and Administrative Appointments for Contract Year 2014-15
7. Approve Requests for New Operating and Capital Appropriations Fiscal Year 2016
8. Authorize Banking Resolution for Deutsche Bank AG, India
9. Award Contracts for Building Renovation, Natural History Building, Urbana
10. Award Contract for Exterior Renovations, Krannert Center for Performing Arts, Urbana
11. Approve Project for Clinical Performance Center, College of Medicine, Chicago
12. Purchase Recommendations (Urbana: \$9M for coal and its byproduct disposal)
13. Approve Settlement of McReynolds v. Demidovich, M.D. for \$675,000.
14. Appointments to the Faculty, Administrative/Professional Staff and Intercollegiate Athletic Staff.

Prof. Salaita's appointment appears in Resolution #14, page 23, line 43.

Chairman Kennedy then asked Chancellor Wise if she would like to make a statement. Chancellor Wise reasserted her support to the board of "our decision" that the University of Illinois not hire Prof. Salaita. President Easter then concurred, citing concerns of "polarization" and "bigotry" that could have resulted. Trustee Montgomery indicated that he supported Chancellor Wise but not this decision, that he had changed his previous position due to further consideration, and questioned specifically the relevance of Prof. Salaita's tweets and the process by which his appointment was declined. Trustee Fitzgerald indicated his support of the decision to decline the Salaita appointment, citing the board's duty to their constituents.

The roll call vote commenced. Resolutions 5-14 passed with the exception of the line item appointing Prof. Salaita explicitly called out by each Trustee, except Trustee Montgomery who approved all of the resolutions including #14 complete with the Salaita appointment. The student trustees, by statute, are not permitted to vote on some faculty appointments including the Salaita appointment and so no vote was recorded for them specifically on the Salaita appointment.

Further details on the meeting are available through video and audio recordings available online at <http://www.bot.uillinois.edu/multimedia>.

Respectfully Submitted,
John C. Hart