

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
 Urbana Senate Observer
 (Final; Information)

SC.16.13 Report on the September 10, 2015, meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois at the Urbana-Champaign campus

Chairman McMillan convened the meeting at 8:00am with Board Secretary Susan Kies calling the Roll. The BOT immediately went into Executive Session to consider:

- University employment and appointment-related matter
- Setting the price for the sale and lease of property owned by the University
- Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act

Open session resumed at 9:45am. The Other Guys performed the Illinois state song, and they were asked to introduce themselves by name, major, and hometown before departing. Trustee McMillan asked Trustee Montgomery to share the news that Trustee Brown Holmes had been named President of the 21,000 member Chicago Bar Association, only the second female African-American to be President.

President Timothy Killeen introduced the official guests including the University's Vice Presidents as well as official observers. Tom Hardy introduced members of the press who were in attendance. President Killeen mentioned that the enrollment numbers for the semester were very good with records or near records set for multiple categories throughout the campuses.

Acting Chancellor Barbara Wilson welcomed the BOT to the campus. She shared that her short tenure has not been dull. She stated that while presidents, chancellors, provosts, and deans come and go, the excellence of the campus is derived from the daily interaction of its faculty and students. The 10-day enrollment figures that she shared included 7,565 freshmen and 1381 new transfer students. This year's freshmen class includes 73% as residents of Illinois. Underrepresented groups make up 17% of the new students with increases in every category, and 20% of the new students are first in their family to go to college. Acting Chancellor Wilson reported that 120 new tenure-track faculty joined the campus for this semester. US News & World Report recently released its university rankings with UIUC ranked 41st overall and tied for 11th amongst public institutions.

Vice President and CFO Walter Knorr shared financial information about the University. The University continues to plan for a range of state funding cuts from the 8.5% proposed by the General Assembly to the 31% proposed by Governor Rauner. The state still owes the University \$49 million from FY15 appropriations, and Mr. Knorr expects the remainder of those funds to come in September. The state continues to pay Medicaid claims, but it is not paying other bills submitted by the University for FY16. The University will be able to make September payrolls, but he did not make any statement regarding future months. All state capital programs are frozen while the state has no budget. Once the state passes a budget for higher education, Mr. Knorr says that the University's budgeting process will need 60 days to be completed.

Associate Chancellor Pradeep Khanna introduced a group of four students that shared quotes from faculty, alumni, the press, and government officials from important events of University history to introduce activities around the University's 150th anniversary coming in 2017. More information can be learned at 150.illinois.edu with events beginning in February 2017 and culminating with commencement in May 2018. Events are planned on the campuses, but also anywhere around the world that there are concentrations of alumni who have made an impact.

BOT committee reports:

- Trustee Sepeda: reported on the Audit, Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee

- Trustee Fitzgerald: reported on the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee
The background check policy was completed. He shared that it does not dictate hiring decisions and that the results of the background checks are not to be used to prevent to prevent people with criminal backgrounds from working at the University.
- Trustee Koritz: reported on the University Healthcare Systems Committee
- Trustee Hasara: reported on the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
The committee endorsed Dr. Barbara Wilson for Interim Chancellor and Dr. Edward Feser to become Interim Provost. Vice President Christophe Pierre shared that the University's entire freshmen class is over 11,000 students, an increase of 10.2% University-wide. The primary drivers between the increase are low or no increase in tuition, increased financial aid opportunities, establishment and strengthening of recruitment from underrepresented populations, and improvements in the application process. Trustee Montgomery asked about African-American students, and several Trustees agreed that the increases in numbers are a positive sign but that continued effort needs to happen.

There was no one there to give public comment.

Chair Nicholas Burbules of the University Senates Conference gave a report from the USC on a set of to-do items that the USC sees as important for this year. The areas of focus include outcomes from the BOT retreat, changes to the Statutes and General Rules, and enhancements to the USC's subcommittee structure. As the University looks at growth in enrollment, Chair Burbules said that growth should be defined within particular areas - which campuses, which population groups, what demographics etc. Chair Burbules asked that the BOT take action on the USC's recommendations for changes to the Statutes and General Rules instead of waiting. He also requested that the BOT consider adding a faculty member to each of its own committees that could bridge communications to the USC's identically named subcommittees. The Trustees said that their committee meetings are open to the public and that faculty would be welcome to participate in discussions. Trustee McMillan asked Chair Burbules and the USC to act as a conduit for faculty input and engagement in both directions.

A motion was made and seconded to approve by voice vote Board items A1 and 1 through 10. Trustee Montgomery asked about improvements to the hiring process, background checks, and BOT approval. President Killeen stated that only in unusual circumstances would the BOT not approve a faculty hire. VP Pierre stated that faculty positions are to be approved by the BOT before the first day of work. Trustee Fitzgerald stated that graduate students and existing employees seeking new positions are not subject to background checks under the new policy, and he stated that a policy decision regarding those two groups should be made by January 2016. Trustees McMillan, Sepeda, and Koritz each stated opposition for medical ethics reasons or other grounds to item 8, an amendment to student health insurance benefits for UIC specifically for gender reassignment surgical costs. The proposal addresses in-network and out-of-network cost concerns for both the beneficiaries and the University. Trustee Montgomery stated that the policy to cover gender reassignment procedures had already been decided previously and that this amendment was about a business decision. The items were passed unanimously by voice vote with Trustees McMillan, Sepeda, and Koritz in opposition to item 8.

The BOT approved by roll call vote Board items 11 through 16 with a few abstentions.

President Killeen stated that strong institutions self-correct and that he felt the University was on the right path to do that after recent events.

The BOT went into a second Executive Session at 12:00pm after which the meeting was adjourned.

Details of the meeting can be found

at: <http://www.bot.uillinois.edu/multimedia> and <http://www.trustees.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/September-10-2015/>

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Bohlmann