

Executive Summary

I attended the Board of Trustees Meeting on December 2, 2011. The meeting was held in meeting rooms C/D on the Springfield campus. With the help of UIS Media Services, the Board made a video recording of the meeting that is available for streaming online:

<http://webcast2.uis.edu/multimedia/Archive/2011/BOT12211.html>

Some of you may find it informative to go and watch bits of the meeting that interest you for yourselves so through out this report, I will refer to the time stamp on that streaming video where each relevant portion starts.

In addition to the President's report (at 0:14:00) the brief remarks he made at 1:53:00, 2:34:00, and 2:54:30 are also very informative about the direction and vision that he has for the University.

The Board celebrated Ray Schroeder's promotion to Associate Vice Chancellor for online learning and they had several glowing comments about his expertise and the presentation he had made the previous day to the Academic and Student Affairs committee.

A running theme through out the meeting was the Board is very interested in conducting a review of academic programs. Unlike our Campus Senate, the senates do not regularly review their academic programs. Our Senate is well positioned to answer the questions that the Board is going to pose regarding fitness and viability of our existing programs.

I also think it would be informative with respect to our relationship with faculty on other campuses and between faculty in general and the Board for Senators to pay heed to the UIS Campus Senate Report (at 03:40:00 on the tape) and the report that immediately followed it from the University Senates Conference (at 03:52:00 on the tape). There is a notable contrast between the two reports and how the Board interacted with the faculty members giving those reports.

Detailed Report

This was a Friday that we had a Campus Senate meeting. So I was not present at the meeting between 10 am and noon. I have used this video recording to compose the portion of my report that covers that time frame.

The meeting started shortly after 8 am with roll call. After that (0:02:00 on video) the Board was entertained by a performance of the state song.

At 0:05:00 on the video the Board invited Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) George Reid to make a presentation. Dr. Reid's remarks were informal. He had no slides. He complimented President Hogan and the Board on their stewardship of the University. He briefly touched on the introduction of

“data-driven” performance funding and the public agenda for college and career success in Illinois. He invoked rhetoric about “two states of Illinois,” one educated and well off, the other less educated and poor and the need to “close the gap.” This is an interesting report taken with the Senate report that Prof Bogle made with regard to the IBHE in December.

At 0:11:00 on the video President Hogan introduced the faculty and administrative observers at the meeting and gave his report (beginning at 0:14:00). He reported that the veto session of the legislature had been a qualified success. The University has secured more funding, some regulatory relief, support for the Prairie Research Institute, and extra MAP (tuition assistance) funding. He also addressed the on going sex abuse scandal at Penn State. He announced his intention to proactively look at our policies and establish mandatory sexual harassment training for all employees.

At 0:23:00 VP Chancellor Koch gave a welcome to the Board. Her slides can be found here:

<http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/December%20,%202011/presentation%201%20-%20UIS%20Welcome.pdf>

She announced her appointment of Ray Schroeder as Associate Vice Chancellor for Online Learning. She also outlined four points that are going to guide her decision-making going forward:

1. Establish tone of ethical, open, engaged leadership.
2. Advance the campus academic and research mission.
3. Student recruitment and retention.
4. Advance diversity efforts

As part of point #4 she announced her intention to increase staffing in the area of Access and Equal Opportunity. She also introduced and had praise for our (relatively) new athletic director Kim Pate.

At 0:33:00 on the video Special Assistant to the President Avigit Gosh made a presentation about the University “dashboard.” A copy of the presentation is here: <http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/December%20,%202011/presentation-2-DashboardIndicators.pdf>

It is important to note that the indicators given in this presentation are examples. This is not the full dashboard. [A draft of the full dashboard has been shared with the faculty through the University Senates Conference but is not available for general distribution.]

At 0:50:00 minutes the presentation was concluded and the trustees asked questions about the dashboard. There were several questions about the comparison or “peer” groups for each campus and how those were selected. It was noted that we might want different comparison groups for different purposes (i.e. aspirational versus operational peer groups). There was also brief discussion about how the dashboard would be used to set goals for the University and how the Board would decide if goals had been met. It was noted that a separate dashboard might be

developed for the healthcare system enterprise (hospitals) and that the U of I Foundation already has a dashboard.

At 1:02:00 Trustee McMillian gave a report from the Audit Budget Facilities and Finance Committee. He highlighted recent recognition earned by the U of I Research Park in Urbana and items appearing on the agenda for Board approval.

Trustee Montgomery complained that the meeting room was too cold. That drew some humorous comments and laughs.

At 1:07:00 Heather Haberaeker (AVP for Business and Finance) introduced the Bronner Group to give the conclusions from their study on MAFBE vendors. MAFBE is a state mandate to increase the use of minority and women owned businesses as contractors and providers of services. The report is here:

<http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/December%202,%202011/presentation-3-%20ABFF-%20MAFBE%20Update%20and%20Supplier%20Diversity.pdf>

The questions for the presenters begin at 1:34:00 on the video. This included a wide ranging discussion on diversity issues that took almost half an hour.

Trustee Montgomery commented that this is a “noble plan” but that it is important to consider accountability in implementing this plan. Trustee Oliliver asked why telecom is excluded from MAFBE. He was told that the state has determined that area is exempt (for reasons that are not disclosed) but that could change in the future. Trustee Kortiz raised concerns about the cost of this study versus the return the University is getting for it. This grew into a larger concern about unfunded state mandates. The student trustees voiced support for Kortiz’s concerns. Trustee Estrada made a point of separating these two issues: the University’s commitment to diversity and how to pay for and address unfunded state mandates. He state that he has gotten a lot of questions about student diversity and vendor diversity and feels those are issues that the public is interested in. Chair Kennedy and Trustee Koritz pointed out that there are many relatively low cost and simple things we can do to remove barriers and that these studies have been helpful in identifying those “simple” fixes. The President pointed out that there is often a “premium” price for diversity that is worth paying to live up to our principles and values. He is aware that the “total environment” that we provide for our students has an important impact. Trustee Oliver wanted it clear that “consultancy” has value and it is often worth paying for because someone needs to do it and there is also a cost associated with an internal study.

At this point the Board took a short recess.

At 1:58:00 the meeting resumed with a report from VP Walter Knorr on the University financial indicators. A copy of that presentation is here:

<http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/December%202,%202011/presentation-4-ABFF-%20Review%20of%20Tuition%20and%20Financial%20Aid.pdf>

The presentation was intended to give the Board the background they need to make a tuition decision at the January meeting. The effort to set tuition earlier has a number of benefits for recruiting students and offering them financial aid. The Board set a goal of keeping tuition increases below the rate of inflation unless there was some dramatic change in state funding. The report showed that state support for the University continues to decrease in constant dollars and the only reliable source of income for the University is tuition and fees.

Questions for VP Knorr begin on the video at 2:30:00. The Urbana student trustee asked if the “who pays” data for other external institutions could be provided for comparison. The answer was that data is difficult to collect but to the extent that it could be obtained, it will be provided to the Board in January. Trustee Koritz asked VP Knorr to provide the average debt that a student from each campus graduates with [this indicator was included on the latest draft of the dashboard shared with the USC]. Trustee Koritz also wanted to know if the 15% of tuition that went to financial aid stayed at the campus it was collected. The answer was yes. The UIC student trustee asked what types of financial aid are included in slide 19. VP Knorr replied that includes all grants in aid but not guaranteed loans.

The President took a moment to note that the Administrative Restructuring efforts have achieved almost \$60 million in annual savings. Most of those saving so far are enterprise wide. The focus is going to shift to campuses, including critical program reviews.

At 2:36:00 Trustee Koritz gave a report from the University Healthcare System Committee. He outlined agenda items that were before the Board for approval. The hospital made money in Fall 2011 in spite of a projected short-fall. Chair Kennedy took a moment to praise the work being done by VP for Health Affairs Skip Garcia. Trustee Montgomery asked a few questions about the funding sources for building the Mile Square Clinic in Chicago. He also wanted to know about the success of efforts to attract more research funding. VP Garcia said he would have a presentation at a future meeting. VP for Research Larry Schook added that the expansion of research in the hospital will also have benefits for similar efforts to recruit top researchers in biomedical fields at Urbana.

At 2:47:00 Trustee Hasara gave a report from the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. She introduced and welcomed the new VP for Academic Affairs (Dr. Christophe Pierre). She summarized items that were before the Board for approval. The committee had heard reports about diversity and student recruitment at UIS as well as a presentation by Ray Schroeder about online learning. Ray Schroeder’s presentation is available online at: <http://www.tinyurl.com/uiobot> Trustee Montgomery pointed out that the graduation rate for students in online education is the same for traditional students. He thinks that this validates online education as a resource that can be used to expand access to high quality education. Trustee Hasara affirmed that online education has value. The President pointed out that online education is a tool we can use to improve four-year graduation rates and

alluded to new initiatives for online learning in the new future. Trustee Koritz pointed out that the blended approach appears to be very effective and might aid in efficient use of physical resources. Chair Kennedy commented on the warmth that the Springfield community feels toward Trustee Hasara but in the same breath said that he had never known her to favor UIS over the other campuses. [It has been grumbled in USC meetings that UIS is the only campus that has “its own trustee.”] He also charged the committee to find a quicker process to grant honorary degrees for graduation speakers and work on accelerated degree completion.

At 2:59:00 Trustee Montgomery gave a report from the Governance, Personnel, and Audit Committee. He reported on a self-assessment conducted by the Board of itself. He summarized two items on the Board agenda for approval.

At 3:05:00 VP Chancellor Koch introduced our new Athletic Director Kim Pate.

At 3:08:00 the Board entered executive session for lunch. When the meeting resumed they continued their series of fine arts performances at BOT meetings by hosting a few engaging short scenes by the UIS Theater Department.

At 3:19:00 the Board heard from Mayor Prussing (mayor of Urbana) and 3 state legislators about the Police Training Institute on the Urbana Campus. They favored keeping this program open and have lobbied the legislature to provide funding to keep it going.

At 3:31:00 the Board proceeded to approve the items listed on their agenda. The All items on the voice vote and roll call agendas were passed unanimously.

At 3:40:00 Professor Tih-Fen Ting presented the annual report from the UIS Senate. A copy of the slides from that report is available here:

<http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/December%20,%202011/presentation-5-UIS%20Campus%20Senate%20Report.pdf>

The report was well received. At 3:48:00 the Board asked questions. The Chair asked what roll faculty governance plays in the approval and review of academic programs. Prof Ting reported that on our campus each program is reviewed every seven years. We take those reviews seriously and expect programs to address questions and concerns raised. She also noted that we consider availability of resources when approving new certificates or programs. [The Senates at Urbana and Chicago do *NOT* regularly review the academic programs on those campuses.]

At 3:52:00 Prof Don Chambers (UIC, Chair of the University Senates Conference) gave a report from the University Senates Conference. A copy of those slides is here: <http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/December%20,%202011/presentation-6-The%20University%20Senates%20Conference.pdf>

Prof Chamber’s voice is recognizable from the tape of the October USC meeting. Senators are not in error to note several significant inconsistencies in this report. At 4:02:00 the Board asked questions. The Chair politely took exception to Prof

Chambers' comparison of the U of I with the California University system, emphasizing that the U of I is not a system, "we are one university." Prof Chambers insisted that he and the Chair agreed about this. The Chair also asked Professor Chambers about the roll that faculty play in program review (the same question he had asked Prof Ting). The answer was less clear than Professor Ting provided. It ended with Prof Chambers stating that the University would continued to function without a Board of Trustees. No one except him laughed.

Not to belabor the point too much, but there was a clear contrast between the presentations made by Prof. Ting and Prof. Chambers. The video shows a difference in body language and humor by the Board. Chair Kennedy is a very positive person, but there is a notable difference in how he addressed Prof Chambers. For Tih-Fen the Board was open, warm, and friendly. They laughed at her humor. I saw several Trustees thank her for her report. Prof. Chamber's attempts at humor were not well received. He chose to lecture the Board in somewhat stern tones and he spoke over and cut off the Chair during questions. I was surprised to hear him tell the Board that they were not critical to the function of the University. I was also distressed that he was unable to tell that the Board would not find him humorous. [My personal read is that Prof Chambers thinks that the Board knows less than they do, he has misread their patience, and that is a not a laughing matter.]

At 2:35:00 Sid Micek gave a report from the U of I Foundation. He reported that the Brilliant Futures program is drawing to a close and it has mostly met its goals. He noted that this campaign had apparently defied the national downward trend in giving to universities.

At 2:42:00 Loren Taylor gave a report from the U of I Alumni Association. Here is a copy of those slides:

<http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/December%202,%202011/presentation-7-UofI%20Alumni%20Association%20Progress%20Report.pdf>

There was an emphasis on the on-going efforts to engage University alumni in China and working to engage the alumni with fewer divisions by campus.

There were two speakers for the public comment part of the meeting.

At 4:18:00 Suzanne Pearson spoke on behalf of the Beyond Coal Campaign, which seeks to remove the Urbana campus' dependence on coal for heat and electricity generation. She also encouraged the Board to exclude energy companies that engage in coal mining from the University's investment portfolio.

At 4:22:00 D.L. Polluck spoke to the Board about making a special effort to extend their diversity efforts in hiring to the search for a new head football coach. [I noted that Mr Polluck had patiently and politely sat behind me all day long to get his five minutes. He made a favorable impression.]

At 4:28:00 the Chair announced that the next Board meeting would be January 19, 2012 in Chicago. He stated that the spring schedule for Board meetings might be altered to allow the Board to meeting in Springfield while the Legislature is in session. Then he adjourned the meeting.