Remarks From President Easter and Chancellor Koch

Chancellor Koch introduced University of Illinois, President Easter, and said she is appreciative of his efforts to get to know the UIS campus and community. President Easter said the University of Illinois has evolved since he first came to UI as a doctoral student in 1973. He highlighted some of the changes that have taken place, including the addition of campuses in Chicago and Springfield. Easter said in evaluating how it is that Universities gain a reputation or a certain area of focus he has concluded that it is the faculty that define the mission of a university. He said he would like to have a conversation with the UIS Senate to talk about the ambitions and focus of UIS faculty. It is appropriate at this point in the evolution of UIS to have a conversation about what faculty would like to see UIS be known for thirty or forty years in the future. According to Easter, it is the role of the administration to provide resources, help formulate the vision, and build consensus around the vision. UI is globally recognized and locally relevant.

Easter said he is concerned about budgets. State appropriations this year were about $647 million, but UI is a $5 billion operation. Currently the State owes UI $304 million, which is $30 million more than we were owed at this time last year. Students are now paying over $1 billion in tuition, so what was once an affordable education is increasingly a costly education. The Board of Trustees has come to the realization that we can’t grow tuition beyond the rate of inflation. Two years ago the BOT approved a resolution that said our goal would be to increase tuition at the rate of inflation. It is not likely that the State will increase appropriations and tuition will remain constant relative to inflation. Consequently, there will not be a lot of new money. This means we have to be very careful about how we think about our priorities. Easter said it was the faculty who should decide what the priorities for resource allocation are. University administration has seven task forces looking at aspects of administrative costs.
The Chicago hospital is a $1 billion operation that provides care for an underserved population and provided about $70 million in charity care last year. Last year the hospital made approximately $10 million, and hopes to break even this year. UI currently has a consulting firm helping us decide what our business model should be as the affordable health care act takes effect in January 2014. Easter said he cannot fathom using tuition dollars to support the hospital.

Federal research dollars are about $800 this year and that seems to be fairly stable. About $300 comes from endowments and gifts. As of this morning UI has 155 days of cash, meaning if we had no more income we could continue to write checks for 155 days. The average cash reserve for the Big Ten is 205 days. Easter said he made a decision in consultation with Senates Conference and other faculty governance that furloughs are something we won’t do in the future. This means if we come to a point where our cash reserve is under $1 million, as it was three or four years ago, we will have to contemplate lay-offs. Easter said he does not believe the University will reach that point. The pension situation is unconscionable. The Illinois House and Senate seem to have differing views on how to solve the pension situation and University Administration is trying to stay as close to the process as possible.

Ermatinger asked what issues, other than the budget, would be impacting the university in the next five years. Easter said he doesn’t really have a sense as to what higher education in this country will look like ten or fifteen years from now. Easter said that Bill Gates has suggested that the process of credentialing will change. Where Universities have been the primary credentialing entity for the last one hundred years, Gates proposed that there will be public bodies that will look at life experience and courses taken and decide whether a person is qualified to be credentialed for a particular occupation. Employers now sometimes give greater weight to certificates from private entities such as Microsoft than they do to an academic degree. Easter wonders if our fundamental business model is at risk. There are currently about 4500 public, private, and for-profit four-year institutions in the United States. About 1/3 of those are now for-profit operations. Easter said UIS has been a leader in on-line education but we need to ask ourselves if we can continue that success.

Kline said there has been discussion about increasing efficiencies in terms of admissions, registrations and enrollments among the three campuses and asked what the status of those discussions are. Easter said while there has been talk of centralization, the constituency of each campus is unique and the process for attracting and admitting students has to recognize that and have a high degree of local management. Easter said UI has a legacy of autonomy for colleges and departments and it has worked very well.

Dell said as education comes under more scrutiny and as our money has gone down, it is her impression that we spend a great deal of time justifying ourselves to various state institutions. She asked if her impression was correct. Easter said there was no doubt that public universities are being subjected to ever-increasing scrutiny. He urged faculty to work through governance to make administration aware of the challenges they face. He also suggested that faculty members could take it upon themselves to contact lawmakers and make their views known.

Barnett said he recently attended a transfer coordinators meeting for state community colleges and heard many comments about the increasing pressure from the ICCB to offer statistical proof of success. Community colleges are under increasing pressure to improve numbers related to retention and completion. Easter said there is a general expectation among the general public for publicly funded institutions, so it is not surprising that a political body would have an interest in the success of those institutions. There has been a degree of trust and an understanding since the first land grant institutions were founded in 1862, that the real understanding of how to manage an educational institution was within the faculty of that institution. The record says that we did a really good job. Somewhere along the way there came a desire on the part of the public to have a greater role in telling us how to do our jobs. Easter said each year in July or August the President of the University has to appear before the legislative audit.
commission. He anticipates questions concerning the cost of instruction, as our costs per credit-hour are higher than other state universities such as Illinois State, Southern, Western, etc. Easter said those other institutions do not operate a hospital; they do not have a mandate to conduct a $17 million State survey, so their numbers are a lot lower. Easter said he anticipates questions from the audit board about the high cost for instruction at UI. Easter said we have written a two page letter to the Auditor General explaining why the formulas don’t make sense. Easter said he is worried about the conversation going on in Washington about giving the Department of Education more authority over setting the rules by which universities are regulated. There is a sense out there that the accrediting bodies such as the North Central Association no longer do the job well, so congress should assign the job to the Department of Education. Easter said this is a misguided notion.

Agarwal said he has seen situations in the public and private sphere where cost-cutting takes pre-eminence. The recipe for success takes a lot more than that, and we need to be able to identify the drivers for growth. Agarwal asked Easter what he sees as the drivers for growth going forward. Easter said the reality is that we are in a competitive market, and we have to understand what defines success in the world we are now in. One of the key drivers for success is a brand name recognized for quality. If you have products in your line of business that are no longer useful you have to decide how to get out of that. This comes down to the role of the faculty in setting the agenda. How do you evaluate yourself? How do you look at yourself and make yourself more competitive? There are fewer young people graduating from high school in Illinois each year. Southern Illinois, Eastern Illinois, and Western Illinois are facing major challenges in recruiting students. We have more capacity in higher education in Illinois than we need. Easter said one of his fundamental objectives is to be sure that when we get to the point of deciding who is going to be shut, that the three campuses of the University of Illinois are so far ahead of everybody else that it is never a question. Easter said he cannot do that without faculty participation to create that reality.

Commenting on salaries, Easter said he has asked the General Assembly for funds for a 3.1% increase, but they will not give it to us. He said we will find a way to remain competitive, and faculty deserve the kind of salaries that are commensurate with the service and qualification they bring. He also said regardless of where we get to with pensions, if it is so onerous that we are no longer remain competitive with other institutions around the country, the university will have to create some kind of supplemental program.

Chancellor Koch thanked faculty members who were able to participate in the two faculty workshops earlier in the week. There were some wonderful conversations about our collective ambitions and the future of the institution. Koch said she realizes this was not the most ideal time of the year for those conversations, but we will find ways to do more in the future. The Chancellor is working on her last campus letter of the year that should be out next Tuesday that will have information about where we are in the budget process. Koch said the Access Illinois scholarship campaign has passed the millions dollar mark with that campaign. The Chancellor also announced that we will have 777 graduates next week and it will be a great day for the University of Illinois Springfield.

The Chair thanked President Easter and Chancellor Koch for their time and comments.

Approval of the Agenda
Villegas moved to approve the agenda; Mulvey seconded; the agenda was approved unanimously.

Announcements
Barnett said the office of admissions just had their first transfer express day and there will be more throughout the summer.
Kline said he was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Dr. Nithya Karuppaswamy, whose service to the University was extensive. He said while it was too late for any resolutions to be made, he was sure that the senate shared in the loss. Fisher said Nithya was an inspiring colleague and role model. As time passes we will have opportunities to find some ways to honor her, and there was a student memorial forming on the third floor of Brookens.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Chair said there are two sets of minutes for approval. Transue moved to approve the minutes of the 10:00 a.m. meeting of April 19; Villegas seconded. Under the Committee on Committee's section, Martin said he would like the minutes to reflect that he expressed skepticism about the over-ruling of his point of order. This could go anywhere between lines 86 and 95. Martin said he has looked back over his own records and the online records of the Senate. Prior to three years ago, committee approvals were done by the new Senate in the fall. Martin continued by saying that a few years ago we started doing them in the spring with the new Senate at the last meeting of the year, which was the second meeting of the new Senate. Martin said he knows we cannot correct that error in the minutes but he wanted it reflected that he expressed skepticism about the denial of his point of order. The minutes were approved with the amendment which will be added.

Kline moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of the new Senate on April 19; Atkinson seconded; the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair**

Nominations were opened at the last meeting on April 19, with nominations being made for Fisher and Helton for Chair and Jamison for Vice-Chair, and Boltuc for UIS representative to the University Senates Conference. As there were no additional nominations for Chair at this meeting, Li moved to close the nominations; Barnett seconded; the motion was approved unanimously. Blank ballots were distributed and Borland and Weinstein agreed to collect and count the ballots. Fisher was elected Chair with a majority of the votes. For Vice-Chair, Kline nominated Helton; Martin seconded. Borland moved to close nominations; Li seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Jamison was elected Vice-Chair with a majority of the votes. There were no additional nominations for UIS representative to USC. Li moved to close nominations; McDermott seconded; the motion carried. Boltuc was elected as USC representative with a majority of the votes.

**Chair Report – L. Fisher**

Fisher thanked this year’s Senate Executive Committee for doing a wonderful job; Holly Thompson as Secretary; Kathy Jamison as Vice-Chair; John Transue as Parliamentarian; Lynn Pardie as ex-officio and Ryan Bouray, student representative. Fisher said she will be posting information on formation of a committee to work on the Higher Learning Commission’s new accreditation pathway. Our next self-study year is 2017-18, but along the way we are supposed to work on assessment projects. Anyone who has an interest in helping to shape our on-going new accreditation process should contact an SEC member. SEC will also be consulting with Academic Affairs on a proposal to group some support units into a center for academic success.

**Provost Report – L. Pardie**

The Provost provided updates for admissions and registrations for Fall 2013. Things continue to look good at the freshman level, especially for our honors program. As for transfer applications and admits, on campus numbers are a little ahead of last year and online is a little behind. At the graduate level, on campus applications have been up considerably, and registrations are also looking good. Overall, our returning students are not registering at the level they were last year and we are working with the Deans and the Department Chairs to encourage our returning students to register at their earliest convenience. The new academic programs task-force held a couple of open forums in the last few weeks to share
We now have a new set of frequently asked questions that is posted on the Academic Affairs website. UIS has been successful in filling two Dean positions, and this week we formally announced the search for a director of Director of Capital Honors program. The Cap Honors director search is an internal search. We were unable to make a successful hire in our search for an Associate Vice-Chancellor for Graduate Education and Research and we will re-initiate that search as soon as we can.

Student Government Association – R. Bouray

Student leadership reception will be this Sunday at 2pm. This event is sponsored by SGA and Student Affairs and is a great way to recognize student leadership on campus. The new nickname task force issued a draft report regarding the Athletic team’s mascot and that report will be available online after Sunday’s SGA meeting. The architects for the new student union were on campus this week and met with students and campus constituents, including faculty representatives. The meetings went well. Speaking for the entire student delegation to the senate, Bouray said it has been great to serve on this body this year.

Fisher thanked Bouray for his leadership and all the student representatives for serving this year.

Martin asked Bouray to explain a resolution passed by SGA about instructor evaluations that would allow students who are not present in class for on-ground evaluations to do evaluations. Bouray said a student senator has proposed allowing for electronic evaluations so that students who did not make the class could also participate in the evaluation. This was just a recommendation as an alternative way of conducting course evaluations.

Campus Planning and Budget Committee Report – B. Bunch

Bunch said the CPBC has met actively this year, and their main goals and responsibilities are to provide campus wide input opportunities into the campus budget and planning process; to review past budget allocations to make sure they are in accordance with priorities and campus goals; to recommend changes in planning priorities; and to submit annual budget priorities to the Senate. Bunch gave a brief power-point presentation that highlighted the CPBC report that was attached to the agenda and posted on the Campus Senate Website. Bunch identified some priorities and processes that are consistent with priorities and processes in past years, but also said that budget priorities evolve, and if we as governance want to have input into the process it is important to be pro-active, especially in times of limited resources.

Intercollegiate Athletic Committee – J. Gilliam

Gilliam said there have been increased levels of communication across all campus constituents that are involved with the athletic process and a spirit of transparency. The biggest tasks this year have been the institutional self-study which included a revamping of the drug and alcohol policy for student athletes, and a volunteer coaches policy. We are underfunded in all areas in athletics, as compared to our competitors in our conference, and this is felt especially in terms of coaches. In terms of the budget, Gilliam said he has been here six years and we are at a point now where we have an understanding of the budget. In past years the budget has not been clearly stated, but because of the work of Athletic Director, Kim Pate, and her Business Manager, Allison Thornley, things are better. The IAC is a much more pleasant committee to be a part of and faculty no longer need to be scared to be on this committee, as has been the case in years past.

Dell said in CLAS the Dean has told faculty to prepare for a five percent cut in the budget. She asked how athletics is preparing to deal with the upcoming budget cut. Pate said they are preparing much like the rest of the University, but the Athletic budget is very complicated, as well as very fluid. The State funding part of the budget is very small, so the impact of cuts will not be as great as in other areas of the University.

Borland thanked Gilliam and Pate for their work with Athletics, citing the tumultuous relationship that has existed in past years between athletics and the rest of the campus, and the new climate that exists.
because of their hard work. Gilliam said he could take none of the credit, but the key to the improved situation is good communication. Pate said the IAC was very important to her as it allows for an important and necessary dialog between athletics and the rest of the campus.

Borland moved to extend the meeting for ten minutes; Kline seconded; the motion was approved.

**Committee on the Library – H. Kent**

Kent said the Committee on the library met regularly this year, with their primary work being discussion and review of the Library Program review. The review is now making its way through Graduate and Undergraduate Councils. The committee also heard a report from Stephen McMinn about the issue of open access journals, something that that committee hopes to start a broader campus discussion about next academic year. The committee is eager to learn more about the recent survey on the Library. Some of the upcoming issues they will be working on include trying to make the Library more of a community space and increasing the availability of popular literature. Treadwell said the Library worked with SGA this year to increase the library technology fee. SGA passed a resolution that was subsequently approved by students to increase the tech fee by $2 per credit-hour. According to Treadwell, it was gratifying to have the students recognize and respond to the needs of the Library.

Dell asked about the impact of budget cuts on the library. Treadwell said it would hit acquisitions the hardest. Over the last few years, the Library has put in place an electronic resource management tool that gives more and better analysis of how resources are being used. Cuts may be painful, but they will be based on good information. The increased technology fee that was recently passed will help soften the blow of any cuts. Dell asked who had been involved in decisions about what areas might be cut.

Treadwell said she had worked with the head of Collection Development and they made decisions based on discussions that had been going on all year about resources. Dell said she found that a bit troubling. She would like to see the Library making collective decisions, as a College, for the sake of transparency. Dell asked the Senate to pay attention to the fact that the Library has been largely a tenure and tenure track organization, but as of today only has one tenured member. This is an interesting decision and it reflects some of the worries of faculty across the country and the fact that we are not consistent with the other UI libraries that are emphasizing teaching. Treadwell said that it is correct that there is only one tenure-track position in the Library. She noted that this was reported to the Senate last year by the Committee on the Library, who had been involved in the decision to move to clinical faculty. Martin said that Treadwell had also talked to the Senate Executive Committee about this transition to clinical faculty. The Chair reminded the Senate that there will be time to reflect and comment on this as the Library Unit Review comes to the Senate in the fall.

**Committee on Sustainability – M. Klingshirn**

Klingshirn said the committee has met monthly since the beginning of the academic year. Given the time constraints he said he would let the contents of the report speak for itself. Predmore, co-chair of the committee, said apart from what is in the report, the committee wrote a climate action plan. The numbers for UIS moving towards any sort of a neutral position, relative to carbon footprint are very sobering. As we are expanding our space, our energy efficiency is actually on the decline. There have been some successes in terms of sustainability education and practice on campus. Martin asked if there had been any progress in getting a sustainability coordinator. Klingshirn said that was one of the goals identified in the climate action plan, and although there is an office of sustainability on campus, it is not funded. Most institutions of our size have a coordinator. Klingshirn said the climate action plan had been forwarded to Chancellor Koch and she has indicated a willingness to talk to the committee about what action might be taken.

**Committee on Assessment – P. Byrnes**
Byrnes said the committee met every other week throughout the year, and reviewed five program reports. The committee created a rubric to evaluate themselves and to evaluate the reports. The rubric will allow the committee to provide data as to what programs are doing, especially concerning learning outcomes. There will be a faculty development workshop in the fall to assist departments in improving assessment reports. There is also a power-point workshop available on the Assessment of Student Learning website to guide programs in preparing a report.

Adjournment

Transue moved to adjourn; Barnett seconded; the meeting adjourned at 12:26 P.M.