

I attended the University of Illinois Board of Trustees meeting on November 18, 2010 as the official faculty observer for the Springfield campus. Prof. Tih-Fen Ting and Prof. Carrie Switzer were also in the gallery.

I would like to report that the committee reports and presentations are becoming more streamlined and less lengthy than they have been at meetings in the recent past. I think that the Board members are starting to get an idea of what is really important and what they want to spend time on in these meetings.

The meeting began at 8 am. All the Board members were present except Trustee Montgomery and Governor Quinn. The University Counsel's chair was occupied by an unfamiliar face, Mr Veazie. He was not introduced but according to the University Counsel's web site Mr. Veazie is the Deputy University Counsel.

Before moving into executive closed session, Chancellor Easter (UIUC) announced that the University is near to an agreement with The National Science Olympiad (<http://soinc.org>) to form a long-term partnership. The Science Olympiad is a nationally recognized competitive K-12 science outreach program. This is an exclusive partnership with the University of Illinois that will share resources and facilities. The details of the new partnership can be found on their web site: <http://soinc.org/partnership>.

The meeting moved into executive session at 8:15 am and remained closed until 9:30 am.

At 9:33 am the meeting was officially called to order and the Board heard a presentation from Carrie Hightman, Chairwoman of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). Chairman Kennedy extended a warm welcome to Ms Hightman with a very flattering introduction. Ms Hightman updated the Board on the public agenda for college career and success. She stated that the University plays a leadership role and that, "what is best for U of I is best for the state." She revisited the state financial crisis in education funding with three points: there will be no new money from the state, "[We] need to get us to living with what we have or less," and "[We] need to look at this the from a Legislator's perspective." She put forward her belief that higher education's position with legislators would be improved if we adopted a "corporate model" where we linked levels of higher ed funding to performance.

She invoked often repeated rhetoric about the "two states of Illinois" and the "prosperity gap" that is due to disparities in education. She cited that in 2010 only 11% of African American and 18% of Hispanic prospective college students scored "college ready" on the math portion of the ACT.

Ms Hightman concluded by asking the Board to do more to integrate research and development at the University to economic development. She asked if the Board would "lend" someone to IBHE to design a plan in this area for consumption by state

legislators. She asked the Board to set a state-wide example by “right-sizing” the University and building a case for letting government know about the state of crisis in Illinois education.

In past meetings I have attended the Board was inclined to sit quietly and take everything the IBHE had to say. But Chairman Kennedy surprised me this time by responding to Ms Hightman’s directive to adopt a model where decisions are based on financial benefit and performance. Kennedy affirmed the Board’s commitment to diversity and access to higher education. But he would not give ground on his concern that the future of educational programs should not be decided solely on the financial return they can generate.

Ms Hightman appeared surprised to receive this mild rebuke from Kennedy. She back peddled in her response but would not abandon her position on a need to show the economic worth of programs. Her argument was that with fewer resources the University should focus on programs that are more economically viable. Kennedy responded that he does not think that only “economic metrics” should be used to decide the future of educational programs and that he thinks that the solution to this crisis is not to cut programs until our budget is balanced.

President Hogan chimed in that he would be happy to assign someone to work with the IBHE on the link between research and economic development. He reaffirmed the commitment of the University to its “land grant mission.” He reminded everyone that the University is currently implementing what he hope will be a 15% cut to administration costs but that the “core mission” of the University should remain unaffected by budget cuts. He concluded by directly telling Ms Hightman, “I know you will help us too.”

This was the first public presentation that Ms Hightman had made to the new Board. Personally I read her body language as being taken aback by the reaction to her words. I think she is accustomed to a relationship where IBHE hands down directives to the University and the Board’s only response to “jump” is “how high?” The pushback by Chairman Kennedy may signal a change in this relationship. I, myself, was personally surprised by the change in tone from the Board. Chairman Kennedy got up to walk Ms Highman out and had what appeared to be a friendly conversation with her on the way out the door.

At 10 am President Hogan made the customary introductions of University Administration and faculty observers present at the meeting. He also acknowledged that this was Chancellor’s Berman’s first Board meeting in his new role as interim UIS Chancellor.

At 10:03 am the Board began hearing environmental sustainability reports from each campus. The report for the Urbana campus was delivered by Chancellor Easter. He emphasized the big role that environmental sustainability plays on the

Urbana campus and the large degree to which students have become involved through their “sustainability fee” and active involvement.

Chairman Kennedy commented that the environmental certifications earned by new buildings on the Urbana campus are impressive. He asked if there was a role for the University in “clean coal” technology. Easter replied that he thought “clean coal” technology should be a priority for the Urbana campus because of its economic importance to the state. Chairman Kennedy asked if there was a center of study in this area on the Urbana Campus. Easter replied, “yes.” Kennedy asked if the Board could have a presentation on that center at a later meeting.

Trustee Strobel asked what the 17% reduction in the Urbana campus climate action plan referred to. Easter clarified that was a goal for a 17% reduction in energy use and he added that it is a goal well within our grasp if the resources are provided to do it.

Trustee Hasara raised the issue of coal again in the context that coal is economically important to southern Illinois and that this leads to a North/South division of opinion about the future of coal burning. Easter replied that we need to face both the economic and environmental realities on that issue. Hasara noted that in the city of Springfield that there is a clear conscious decision to serve economic interests over environmental interests. Easter expressed a hope that someday technology will offer a solution that allows both interests to be served equally.

At 10:23 Kennedy announced a change of schedule. He paused the sustainability presentations, reported that Urbana campus security would be added to the schedule in the afternoon, and that next the Board would hear a report from the Audit, Budget, and Finance Committee.

Trustee McMillan reported that at the last Audit, Budget, and Finance meeting the following was discussed: investment of the endowment, the Urbana campus master plan, tuition and affordability issues, reforms to the purchasing system, and “intergovernmental issues.” He said that Items #10, 12, 13, 14, 14a, and 15 on the day’s agenda were all products of that committee’s work.

At 10:30 am the Chancellors moved from their usual spots on the end of the table to the side of the room for a special presentation on art and public buildings. Three panelists took a seat at the table with the Board. The panelists were: Jack Guthman, Ra Joy, and Lewis Manilow. All three gentlemen are active participants and patrons in the arts in Chicago and each has been a longtime advocate for public works of art.

Jack Guthman reviewed city ordinances encouraging public art installations in Chicago. He suggested that the University should make a special effort to incorporate work by artists native to Illinois in our public spaces.

Ra Joy outlined the mission of the Chicago Arts Alliance and touted the positive effects that public art has. He stated that art spurs important conversations and encourages community and civic pride through shared public experience.

Lewis Manilow talked about his father's legacy and the sculpture garden his family is responsible for on the campus of Governor's State. He respectfully amended Mr Guthman's call to give preference to native Illinois artists by suggesting that great art from elsewhere should also be considered. He advocated a balance of art from within and without Illinois. He emphasized that the criteria for selecting art should be excellence because it has the potential to create pride for a community or an institution.

Chairman Kennedy echoed Mr Manilow's idea that pride and sense of place are important benefits of public art. He thanked the panel for, "giving words to our thoughts." President Hogan added that the University has a strong commitment to the arts and humanities as part of our mission.

Chairman Kennedy asked the panel how spending money on public art should be justified when budgets are tight. Mr Joy provided statistics and information that art is a stimulus for economic development and tourism. He said it "sharpens" a places reputation and sets a good tone. Guthman emphasized that usually public art is such a small expense relative to the cost of a whole building so that its benefits far out weight its cost. Mailow invoked the legacy of the Work Project's Administration during the Great Depression as an example of how art is an important source of pride and inspiration in rougher economic times.

Trustee Carroll spoke up to emphasize the impression made by ethnic art and how it contributes to diversity. The UIC student trustee said that still, "students need to be able to afford to go to a school" or the art won't be seen. The UIS student trustee (Charles Olivier) expressed an appreciation for the information from the panel about the positive economic impact of public art. The Urbana student trustee voiced his support for a percent set-aside for public art in building construction. He echoed Mr Joy's words and said that art has a positive effect in attracting notoriety and students.

Trustee Oliver asked the panel to give their advice on how to equitably spread arts spending. Mr Guthman replied that experts should be included in the decision-making and consulted along with community groups to ensure the most effective use of resources devoted to acquiring art.

At 11:02 am Vice President Knorr (VP for Finance) presented a report on the financial status of the university. That report is available here:
<http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/November%2018,%202010/presentation%20-%20Audit-Budget-Finance-Facilities-Tuition%20Fees%20Presentation%20FY2011.pdf>

It was noted that the complete lack of capital spending between 2005 and 2009 (on page 5 of that presentation) led to maintenance cost coming out of campus budgets. It was reported that as of November 15 that the state still owes the University \$11 million off last year's (2009) appropriation. The charts on page 6 and 7 show that the state continues to fall more and more behind in their payments to the University. Charts were also included on pages 10 and 11 illustrating how faculty salaries at U of I have fallen well behind our peer institutions. It was also clarified that the chart on Page 17 shows tuition assistance that the University offers in addition to (not including) MAP funding.

The Urbana student trustee expressed a concern that tuition increases should not be above the rate of inflation. Trustee Strobel asked how our tuition rate compares to other members of the Big Ten. Knorr replied that we are the 2nd lowest tuition rate in the Big Ten. Strobel commented that we need to move up because that low rate of tuition directly affects how our faculty are paid relative to those other schools.

President Hogan offered that he has encouraged the Foundation to begin a scholarship fundraising campaign.

Trustee Carroll asked how much "does tuition need to be raised to not raise it every year?" Knorr was confused by the question and offered that the tuition increase last year barely offset the drop in state funding. Chairman Kennedy offered that the Board has little appetite for a tuition increase that is above the rate of inflation. Hogan said that faculty and staff need raises and that we need to keep our tuition rate "even."

At 11:32 pm the environmental sustainability presentations resumed with Ch. Berman presenting for the UIS campus. Berman reported that in 2007 UIS placed the office of sustainability at the vice-chancellor level and a campus senate sustainability committee was formed in 2008. A report on sustainability was generated in 2007 with several recommendations that have been implemented. One of the benefits of this plan has been that the UIS campus was 10% under-budget on utility costs in 2009.

Ch. Berman broke his presentation into two main parts: facilities and instruction. For facilities he drew attention to the new residence hall on campus with a "green" roof. He spoke of the construction and research efforts at the Therkildson Field Station at Emiquon that are leading the nation in research of conservation efforts to restore flood-plain wetlands. He also mentioned the replacement of windows in Brookens that has yielded energy savings.

On the instructional side, Ch Berman highlighted the online and on-ground degree programs in Environmental Science. He noted that the enrollment in those programs is up 62%. He also mentioned the new Chemistry and Biology concentration in science of the environment. In response to a question at the last Board meeting he reported that we estimate that UIS has reduced carbon dioxide

emissions about 28% by allowing students to earn credits online rather than commuting to and from campus.

Chairman Kennedy commented that the efforts of UIS were “impressive” and that it must be a boon to recruiting students. Berman said that student led efforts attract students. The UIS student trustee (Charles Olivier) added that sustainability is part of UIS new student orientation and that UIS has a 2008 energy policy that has been implemented. Berman clarified that the 2008 energy policy has been implemented in parts.

At 11:45, Provost Tanner began the presentation for sustainability on the UIC campus. A copy of that presentation is available here:
<http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/November%2018,%202010/presentation-Sustainability-UIC.pdf>

Chairman Kennedy asked if it is possible to compare our sustainability efforts with those of other universities using the STARS protocol embraced by UIC. Tanner clarified that STARS allows for some comparison but that it is a very subjective measure and not a very good absolute scale for comparison.

Trustee Strobel added that she sees sustainability having ties to healthy living and good diet through the access to fresh foods that campus gardens offer. She expressed her belief that there is potential here to share the University’s experience with other parts of state government.

At noon the meeting adjourned for lunch. The Board took a working lunch with an executive session.

The room began to fill again around 1:50 pm. The gallery contained a few more students than usual, which I noted because at the last meeting in Urbana students had show up in force to protest tuition increases.

The meeting resumed at 2:10 pm with an announcement that Chancellor Allen-Mears was absent today for health related reasons and that Provost Tanner was representing the UIC campus in her place.

The police chief from the Urbana campus, Barbara O’Connor, gave a presentation on security on the Urbana campus. The presentation is filed at the following link:
<http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/November%2018,%202010/presentation-Campus%20Safety-Urbana.pdf>

The Urbana student trustee publically questioned if the statistics reveal any significant change in level over previous years. Trustee Kennedy asked how much collaboration is there between campus police and the municipal police. The Chief replied that detectives meet weekly and the chiefs meet monthly in addition to

constant information sharing. Trustee Strobel voice high concern for this issue and told the Chief to let her know if any new resources are needed.

At 2:32 pm Trustee Koritz gave a report from the Hospital Committee. He reported that the committee had discussed: the decrease in high risk OB referrals due to competition, the increase in out-patient services, the repair and upgrade of the hospital steam plant (which will cost more than originally anticipated), a report from John Dianardo about the proposal to build a “mile square clinic,” and issues surrounding the proposal to add a Vice President for Health Affairs and the University Administration level. On the last item, Trustee Koritz reported there was a “resounding” consensus in favor of the proposal tempered by concerns about the costs. He then offered his personal endorsement of the proposal to create a Vice President for Health Affairs.

At 2:40 pm Trustee Hasara gave a report from the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. She said that at the last meeting the committee discussed: recruitment at each campus, admissions reform, and “tuition & affordability.”

Trustee Kennedy asked about a report about seven kids in the Chicago area who had earned perfect ACT scores and if the University was doing anything proactively to recruit them. Chancellor Easter answered that recruitment materials for the Urbana campus are routinely sent to students in Illinois with high ACT scores. Chancellor Berman offered that recruiting is also done through contact with high school counselors.

Trustee Kennedy expressed a concern about a reported drop in African American male students who enrolled in the University after being admitted. Hasara said that this could be a product of how our statistics are collected. The student trustee from Urbana quipped that it was the fault of “our high tuition.” That comment provoked a student who was in the gallery to stand up and start shouting at the Board about the tuition rate. Trustee Kennedy reminded the gallery that they are suppose to be passive participants in the meeting.

At 2:47 pm Trustee Strobel made a report about the Governance Committee. She said that at their last meeting the committee had reviewed the academic leadership program for faculty and the administrative fellows program for staff. The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be on January 18.

At 2:52 pm the Board heard a report on diversity as pertaining to the Minority and Female Business Enterprise (MAFBE) participation program. A copy of that presentation is here:
<http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/November%2018,%202010/presentation%20-Diversity%20Session-MAFBE.pdf>

At 3:02 the Board hear a report from Prof. Matt Wheeler (UIUC), chair of the University Senate’s Conference, on the faculty response to the proposed statutes

changes. Unfortunately an electronic version of this report has not yet been made available. The USC opted to transmit each of the three campus senates' advice verbatim to the Board because they differed and there had not been time to develop a consensus. Along with the Senates' advice the USC had voted itself on proposals concerning the proposed statutes changes. In summary:

- On the addition of "Vice President" to the title of the campus Chancellors:
 - USC close vote against
 - UIC and UIUC against
 - UIS in favor
- On the re-titling and re-tasking of the Vice President for Technology and Economic Development as the VP of Research:
 - All bodies in favor (on advice of the Senates the proposed title had been changes to VP of Research)
- On the establishment of a Vice President for Health Affairs
 - All bodies in favor (with concerns that this be cost-neutral)

Trustee Kennedy thanked Prof Wheeler and the faculty for their input.

President Hogan followed up the presentation by Prof Wheeler with his own comments. He noted that he had attended forty meetings with faculty about the proposed changes to the statutes. He said he had heard "preponderous support" for the VP of Research and VP of Health Affairs proposals but there was "split support" for the addition of Vice President to the Chancellor's titles. In reporting that "split support" he heavily quoted the summary document written by the USC. He said he feels the title change in no way changes or redefines the roll of the campus chancellors. He said he had heard and responded to faculty advice to simply make a Vice President for Research rather than the more lengthy title initially proposed. There had been some concern among faculty that the President was trying to abolish the title or position of Provost. He made clear that was not his intention and that the title "Provost" would remain in the Statutes to address those concerns. He reaffirmed his commitments to shared governance and aim to reduce administrative overhead.

Trustee Kennedy followed up the President's comments by saying that these Statutes changes should be seen as an effort by the current Board to protect the University of Illinois from over-reaching by the Board itself. He felt it was very much needed to clarify the chain of reporting for Chancellors and remove the BOT from direct interaction with the chief officers on each campus.

Trustee Strobel spoke to endorse the proposed changes. She thanked the faculty for their effort and input but also said that she was concerned that the process had been too slow. She voiced her trust in President Hogan and her appreciation for the clear logic in the positions for and against the changes. She made it clear that she believes that the proposed changes would not change the fundamental mission and function of each individual campus. She quoted the UIS Senate position on the Chancellor title re-alignment as words she keeps being draw back to. She concluded by

expressing her desire to see the three campuses as one University and that this is a “time to stand together rather than apart.”

Trustee McMillan thanked the students for their input as well.

At 3:19 the Board moved to approve the regular agenda. These items included all the amendments to the Statutes. Item #4 was to appoint Lynn Pardie as UIS Interim Provost. Trustee Hasara read item #1 recognizing Provost Tanner (UIC) and there was a standing ovation. All trustees present voted “aye” on all items.

At 3:25 the Board moved to approve the Roll Call Agenda. Again all the trustees present voted “aye” for all items.

After the roll call vote Trustee Kennedy announced that in the future there is going to be a walk-through conference call with faculty leaders to go over the agenda in advance of the meeting.

At 3:27 Prof. Tih-Fen Ting (UIS) gave the annual report from the UIS Senate. A copy of that presentation is here:

<http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/agenda/November%2018,%202010/presentation-Campus%20Senate%20Report-Springfield.pdf>

I noted that during the presentation Chancellor Easter (Urbana) was nodding in approval and at the end he leaned over to Chancellor Berman and gave a thumbs up. Trustee Kennedy voiced his appreciation for our faculty’s commitment to service.

At 3:34 pm the Board opened up public comment. There were five (5) speakers: (note in each case that I am not given a written list of names so I am spelling them phonetically the best that I can hear them. It is not always possible to verify spellings. I apologize for any inaccuracies.)

- Patrick Thompson - The founder of Visionaries Educating Youth Adults, Mr Thompson came to speak in favor of increasing after school outreach for at-risk youth in Urbana. He asked the University to provide support for his program and was upset that the U of I Extension has more of an emphasis on rural areas than urban areas.
- Thomas Cansela - Mr Cansela is a retired Chicago Police officer who recounted a history of alleged crimes committed by Bill Ayers. He spoke in support of the BOT’s decision to not grant Emeritus to Mr Ayers.
- Prof. Barbara Frisker (UIC) - Represented the college of liberal arts and sciences at UIC. She had hoped to ask for a postponement of a vote on the proposed changes to the Statutes. She is concerned that the “details are not out there.” And disagrees fundamentally that we are one University. She voice fear about UIC loosing its identity as a campus under Urbana’s influence.

- Mr David Kales - Mr Kales is a Chicago firefighter who was severely injured by a bomb that he attributes to a group associated with Bill Ayres. He spoke in favor of the BOT's action on Mr Ayre's emeritus status as "a moment of consequence."
- Ms Rebecca Marcotti - It is unclear if she is a student but she identified herself as affiliated with "Students for Environmental Concern." She voiced opposition to the coal burning plant at Urbana. She is not satisfied by the 2017 deadline for the phase out of coal burning at that plant. She accused the University of dumping coal ash down abandoned mine shafts. She is concerned about the under-representation of minorities. She wants a freeze to student tuition.

At 3:57 the Board opened the floor for Old Business. Trustee Strobel spoke out and said that she has no desire to revisit the Bill Ayers issue and that she hopes it can be put to rest here and now. Trustee McMillan firmly seconded that sentiment.

The Board adjourned at 4pm. A handful of students began shouting about tuition rates and minority representation. The ones who were shouting were quickly removed from the room by campus security. Others who had signs or stood in silent protest were allowed to remain in the gallery.