

MINUTES  
Board of Trustees of Illinois State University  
May 3-4, 2021

Trustee Jones: I will now call this special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University to order. For the record, I will note that Trustee Donahue is participating by Zoom conference. In accordance with the general provisions of the Open Meetings Act 5ILCS120, a member not physically present at the meeting and participating through other means needs to state the reason they are prevented from physically attending, such as:

1. Personal illness or disability.
2. Employment purposes.
3. Family or other emergency.

Trustee Donahue, please state the reason you are prevented from attending following answering here when your name is read.

Trustee Jones: We'll wait just a minute so the roll is on record, because this is not recording right now. All right. Trustee Louderback, would you call the roll?

Trustee Louderback: Trustee Bohn.

Trustee Bohn: Present.

Trustee Louderback: Trustee Dobski.

Trustee Dobski: Present.

Trustee Louderback: Trustee Donahue.

Trustee Jones: He's trying to get in. We can't hear him.

Trustee Donahue: Present and I am virtual due to a work commitment.

Trustee Jones: Okay. Thank you. Trustee Louderback, you can continue. I'm sorry.

Trustee Louderback: Trustee Louderback. Present. Trustee Turner.

Trustee Turner: Present.

Trustee Louderback: We have a quorum.

Trustee Jones: Thank you, Trustee Louderback. Now, can I have a motion and a second to permit Trustee Donahue to join us by Zoom conference to officially attend and participate in today's and tomorrow's meetings.

Trustee Jones: We have a motion by Trustee Navarro and a second by Trustee Bohn. All those in favor... Oh, I'm sorry. We need to have a roll call vote. No, we don't need a roll call vote. Okay. All those in favor, yes, aye. Any opposed? The motion carries. Trustee Donahue, you can now officially participate in today's meeting. I also note that while this is an in-person meeting, we are also welcoming guests to attend the public portion of the meeting via Zoom today. Next, we have the approval of our agenda. You have before you the agenda for today's meeting. Can I have a motion and a second to approve the agenda?

Trustee Louderback: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Second.

Trustee Jones: We have a motion on the floor by Trustee Louderback and a second by Trustee Bohn. All those in favor, yes, aye. Any opposed? The motion carries. The agenda is approved. Next on the agenda is public comment. We have five individuals who have indicated an interest in making public comments to the Board today. In accordance with policy, the Board of Trustees will allow up to 30 minutes in total for public comments and questions during a public meeting. An individual speaker is permitted five minutes for his or her presentation. If more than two persons wish to speak on a single item, it is recommended that they choose a person to speak for them. The Board of Trustees will accept copies of the speaker's presentations, questions, and other relevant written materials. If you have any written materials you want to share with the trustees, you may send them to [bot@ilstu.edu](mailto:bot@ilstu.edu). When appropriate, the Board of Trustees will provide a response to the speaker's questions within a reasonable amount of time. At this time, I invite Isabel Samuel to proceed with comments to the Board. And if you are present, you can use the center microphone for your comment. I believe Isabel is participating via Zoom.

Isabel Samuel: That is correct. Good morning Board of Trustees. My name is Isabel Samuel, and I am first-year....

Trustee Jones: Just a minute, Isabel. We're having some tech support difficulty hearing you, so they're going to try to get that resolved.

Isabel Samuel: Thank you. Let me know if you need me to speak as a (indecipherable). Would it help if I speak?

Trustee Jones: That did help, Isabel. We can hear you now. You can proceed.

Isabel Samuel: Thank you. Good morning, Board of Trustees. My name is Isabel Samuel, and I am a first-year MFA in the School of Theatre and Dance. And today I want to ask all of you to make it mandatory for students, faculty and staff attending in-person activities on campus to be vaccinated for COVID-19. The New York Times reported four days ago, Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, that over 100 colleges and universities will require students to be inoculated against coronavirus in order to attend in-person classes. This list does include public universities such as the university system of Maryland. The USM Chancellor, Jay A. Perman, who is also a pediatrician, said in a statement that mandating a COVID vaccine is a reasonable and necessary means of preventing spread of the disease. Although, one better, mandating a COVID vaccine is the most effective strategy we have, especially as we try to reach herd immunity. It's not just one tool in this way. It's our best tool and one I believe is critical to our safe return to campus. I believe that Illinois State University should join the ranks of these institutions that are requiring vaccination against the coronavirus for the fall. ISU already requires multiple vaccinations, which include measles, meningococcal, mumps, rubella, Tdap, and TB basic. Failure to have these vaccinations on record with Student Health Services within the tenth day of the semester lead to a block on registration and a \$50 noncompliance fee. This policy shows that ISU already has plans and procedures in place to ensure public health, and it is essential that the COVID-19 vaccine is added to this list. If I had to get my tetanus booster during a semester when all my classes were revoked, something I was glad to do, then surely a vaccine against the deadly respiratory illness that is still threatening the globe should be added to the list. Requiring the vaccine is about protecting all members of our community and not just students, faculty and staff. It is about protecting the greater Bloomington-Normal community in which we reside. McLean County's seven-day testing average has been greater than 5% for several weeks now. I know because I cannot work on campus with another person until we are below 5% for at least a week. We should not increase population density on campus as is the current plan without requiring vaccinations to protect our neighbors. And, lastly, but perhaps most importantly, we need to protect those who cannot receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Even despite encouraging news that federal regulators may approve a Pfizer vaccine for 12-15 year olds in the coming weeks, we still have many children who are unable to receive the coronavirus. Students, faculty, and staff that are parents who are in close contact with children should not risk spreading this disease to these children simply by coming onto campus every single day. Those that have medical and religious reasons not to get vaccinated should feel protected by their peers, not threatened that they will catch a deadly illness. Vaccinations are the greater good for Illinois State University and the Board should make COVID-19 vaccine mandatory for the fall. Thank you very much.

Trustee Jones: Thank you, Isabel, for your comments this afternoon. Next, we have Rachel Sabella. I believe Rachel is in person, so, Rachel, if you would join us at this microphone. Thank you.

Rachel Sabella: (Rachel spoke about public divestment of fossil fuel investments and encouraged the ISU Foundation to join in this divestment. The recording of her comments was indecipherable).

Trustee Jones: Thank you, Rachel, and congratulations on your graduation. Next we have Jake Bright, and I believe Jake is in person as well. If you could step to the mic, Jake.

Jake Bright: (Jake spoke about public divestment of fossil fuel investments and encouraged the ISU Foundation to join in this divestment. The recording of his comments was indecipherable).

Trustee Jones: Thank you, Jake, for your comments this morning. I don't know if you said you were graduating this year. Congratulations. Next we have Trevor Rickerd. Mr. Rickerd if you could step to the microphone, please.

Trevor Rickerd: Hello. My name is Trevor Rickerd. I'm a fifth-year Ph.D. candidate in Biological Sciences and a member of the ISU Graduate Workers Union. I'll be short today. First I want to say that I stand in solidarity with the Fossil Free ISU movement. The action by President Dietz suggests that he cannot and should not be held accountable. This lack of accountability and the secrecy erodes trust in the campus community and the public. I want to read a few paragraphs from a book entitled "Accountability of Colleges and Universities" by Patricia Graham, Richard ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l Lang 12:00), and Marvin ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l Truk) from the ISU Instructor Library. This is regarding accountability of ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand 12:11). (The remainder of this paragraph consists of bits and pieces of what the transcriptionist can hear due to poor recording quality of all of the public comments made by in-person speakers. The transcriptionist cannot be certain that all of this matches what has been said by the speakers.) Trustees, staff have a vital juncture of the internal and external hemispheres of accountability. We are truly emergence of the controversy ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) accountability of colleges and universities in part the certain failures of governing boards. In most cases, governing boards need to know more about their institution in order to better perform their duties. Some boards intrude on the proper ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand). Somewhere ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) the proper roles of administrators and faculties while other boards are too *laissez faire*. In particular instances, more of the trustees need to modify their size, methods of appointment, membership qualifications or role. All of these changes will require a delicate ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) on trustees, the faculty, and the president. The presidential leadership here is key. External accountability comes ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) explanation and justification. Evaluation ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) in this realm demonstrates to outsiders, usually elected officials and governing administrators ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) that what is going on inside the institution is worthy of their support. It demonstrates that the institution is using its public and private funds appropriately and effectively such outsiders are almost never ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) with teaching and research inside the institution. If the essence of internal evaluation is discovered what is going on and how it can be improved, then the essence of external evaluation is persuasion, convincing outsiders the institution deserves support. This facilitation between these two kinds of assessment, the fact that they are conducted in different ways, answer to different criteria, and ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) lead to a lack of trust ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) regarding the institution. Where trust is high, assessment based on what the institution learns about its own operation can also serve to legitimize and persuade with the persuasions embedded in trust. By contrast, where trust is low, and especially when persuasion is high, ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) adequate description of ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand). What I want to point out here is the Presidential Search Committee is entirely secret and not open to the public at the same time ignoring governing bodies of the University such as the Academic Senate to push through measures like the college of engineering ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) down the contingency that the University ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) graduate workers and their contract ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) negotiate in 18 months. Those kinds of actions make it clear that the ISU President does not believe that he should be held accountable or could be held accountable. ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) accountability, ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) instructor ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) externally accountable. If Dietz and the Board of Trustees think that this short-term labor struggle with the ISU Graduate Workers Union goes away when you push through the College of Engineering and simultaneously raise mandatory fees, I have news for you. This only further erodes trusts and fuels our cause. Thank you.

Trustee Jones: Thank you, Mr. Rickerd. Next we have Alex Murarus. If you could come to the microphone, please. Thank you.

Alex Murarus: Hello. My name is Alex Murarus, and I'm a first-year Master's student in the School of Biological Sciences with the Graduate Workers Union. ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) comment today is going to be short. ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand). I can stand here and give a five-minute speech about the egregious offer ?? \_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) of our current President, and how this Board has no business deciding the future leadership

of this University as well as ??\_\_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand). Unfortunately, it does matter what I think or my peers think, the students, nor ??\_\_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand). The actions of the President and the Board's refusal to hold him accountable have demonstrated that ISU's core values . The fact that ??\_\_\_\_\_ (s/l cannot understand) cherry on top. Thank you.

Trustee Jones: Thank you to all our commenters this afternoon. Good afternoon. The purpose of today's meeting is to convene the committee to search for the 20<sup>th</sup> President of Illinois State University. Before we move into Executive Session to begin that meeting, I just want to take a moment to recognize the people who have generously given of their time and efforts to make the search process work. That includes the students, faculty, staff, and alumni who make up the Search Committee, our governance group, support staff, WittKieffer Consultants, and, of course, my fellow trustees. I thank all of you for what you've done to make this search informative, productive, and for your excellent service to Illinois State University. I would now entertain a motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees pursuant to 5ILCS Section 120/2C1. Can I have a motion and a second?

Trustee Bohn: So moved.

Trustee Jones: Motion by Trustee Bohn.

Trustee Dobski: Second.

Trustee Jones: Second by Trustee Dobski. I have a motion on the floor by Trustee Bohn and a second by Trustee Dobski. Trustee Louderback, can you please proceed with the calling of the roll for the vote.

Trustee Louderback: Trustee Bohn.

Trustee Bohn: Yes.

Trustee Louderback: Trustee Dobski.

Trustee Dobski: Yes.

Trustee Louderback: Trustee Donahue.

Trustee Donahue: Yes.

Trustee Louderback: Trustee Jones.

Trustee Jones: Yes.

Trustee Louderback: Trustee Louderback. Yes. Trustee Navarro.

Trustee Navarro: Yes.

Trustee Louderback: Trustee Turner.

Trustee Turner: Yes.

Trustee Louderback: The motion is approved.

Trustee Jones: Thank you, Trustee Louderback. We will move into Executive Session following this meeting. Also, we will re-convene here tomorrow for Executive Session only. There will be no vote on any action, and the Board will move into public session following tomorrow's business for the sole purpose of adjournment. Thank you.