

MINUTES
Board of Trustees of Illinois State University
Board Retreat
November 2-3, 2023

On November 2, 2023, the meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairperson Bohn at 9:21 a.m. in Room 247 CC of the Hyatt Lodge at Oak Brook in Oak Brook, Illinois.

Secretary Navarro called the roll, and the following members were present:

Trustee Bohn
Trustee Navarro
Trustee Ebikhumi
Trustee Jones
Trustee Tillis
Trustee Jenkins
Trustee Merminga (arrived at 9:45 am)

Also present during the Board Retreat as noted below:

Interim President Andover Tarhule
Chief of Staff Katy Killian
Board Counsel Carrie Haas
Cabinet Members: Ani Yazedjian, Levester Johnson, Dan Stephens, Pat Vickerman as noted below.

Chairperson Bohn welcomed the Trustees and made opening remarks.

Chairperson Bohn called for public comments of which there were none.

Team Building exercises performed with Trustees.

Discussion of Trustees Responsibilities led by Board Counsel.

Introductory Remarks by Interim President Tarhule regarding the significant risks facing higher education.

Interim Tarhule led a discussion on financial planning and ISU's challenges and priorities regarding enrollment, housing, revenue v. expenses, legislative priorities and initiatives, differential tuition, and strategic planning.

Vice President for Finance and Planning, Dan Stephens, summarized the University's financial condition and planning and provided an overview of the fiscal reserves in General Revenue, Auxiliary Facility Services, and current balances, as well as the Current Fiscal Reserves, adjusted for BOT approved and potential future projects. Lastly, he reported on the current and projected debt profile and indicated that Illinois State University's current credit rating is rated as Positive by both Moody's and Standard & Poor's systems.

Lunch Break at 12:17 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

Interim President Tarhule, joined by VP Stephens, Provost Ani Yazedjian and Vice President of Student Affairs Levester Johnson led a discussion on tuition, room and board and student fees including robust discussion on differential tuition. VP Stephens and Provost Yazedjian summarized the differential tuition model and financial projections. Provost Yazedjian and Trustee Ebikhumi summarized student and faculty reception of differential tuition model. Interim President Tarhule, VP Stephens and Provost Yazedjian provided an analysis of the benefits of Differential Tuition. Interim President Tarhule and VP Stephens emphasized as they did at last year's Board Retreat it is strongly recommended that the Board adopt differential tuition or ISU risks the following: tuition costs will have to rise for ALL students; we will lose faculty, be uncompetitive, or unable to hire faculty in some areas

(e.g., Computer Science, Business, Nursing, and Engineering); we will experience reduced flexibility for strategically supporting areas of high growth; and experience reduced flexibility for need based student financial aid in these high demand but expensive programs.

Vice President of Student Affairs Levester Johnson and VP Stephens presented on Housing and Dining, and led discussion on the demands for student housing, current/anticipated building projects and attendant costs. Discussion was had on comparator housing/dining rates of other universities.

Break at 3:20 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 3:39 p.m.

Interim President Tarhule, Provost Yazedjian, and VP Stephens provided College of Engineering updates including faculty hired, schedule of faculty searches, curriculum proposals, and building construction and financing. Discussion of possible state funding and private gifts, and implementation timeline (Fall 2025 – first students and Fall 2025 building opens). Discussion of sustainability in building project, bid process and financing options.

Chairperson Bohn asked for a motion to recess until 9:00 AM on Friday, November 3rd. Trustee Ebikhumi so moved, seconded by Trustee Jenkins. All voted in favor, motion passed. At approximately 5:00 p.m., the meeting was recessed until 9:00 AM on Friday, November 3rd.

On November 3, 2023 at 9:06 a.m., Chairperson Bohn reconvened the Board Retreat in Room 247 CC of the Hyatt Lodge at Oak Brook in Oak Brook, Illinois.

Secretary Navarro called the roll, and the following members were present:

Trustee Bohn

Trustee Navarro

Trustee Ebikhumi

Trustee Jones

Trustee Tillis

Trustee Jenkins

Trustee Merminga

Interim President Tarhule led a discussion on Legislative Priorities. Discussion was had on Brad Franke’s job description, historical underfunding from the state, expectations for Spring 2024 legislative session, Redbird Caucus, and building a coalition. Interim President Tarhule summarized the historical underfunding by the state and equity funding formula and its political challenges. Discussion was had on special education funding.

Interim President Tarhule and Board Counsel led discussion on Board approval threshold, BOT template review and bylaw review. Discussion was had on possible increase of approval threshold from current \$500,000 level. Trustees discussed using consent agenda for board meetings. There was discussion on the need for analysis from administration to aid in considering recommended amendments to bylaws.

Chairperson Bohn called for a motion to move into Closed Session for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Trustee Ebikhumi so moved, seconded by Trustee Tillis. Secretary Navarro called for a roll call vote and each Trustee voted in favor to move into Closed Session at 10:56 a.m.

At 12:41 p.m., the Board returned from Closed Session. Chairperson Bohn asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Jones so moved; seconded by Trustee Ebikhumi; all Trustees voting in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.