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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
MARCH 30, 2020

Pursuant to notice, a special meeting was called by the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University, and the meeting convened at 12:07 p.m., Monday, March 30, 2020, in the Large Dining Room of the Stone Center, Southern Illinois University System Office, Carbondale, Illinois, and via Zoom videoconference. The meeting was called to order by Chair Gilbert. The following members of the Board were present:

Hon. J. Phil Gilbert, Chair
Dr. Ed Hightower, Vice Chair – via Zoom videoconference
Mr. Roger Tedrick, Secretary – via Zoom videoconference
Mr. Ed Curtis - via Zoom videoconference
Mr. Brione Lockett
Ms. Mackenzie Rogers - via Zoom videoconference
Dr. Subhash Sharma - via Zoom videoconference
Ms. Amy Sholar - via Zoom videoconference
Mr. John Simmons - via Zoom videoconference

The Executive Secretary reported and the Chair determined that a quorum was present.

Also present for the duration of the meeting were Dr. Dan Mahony, President; Mr. Lucas Crater, General Counsel; and Ms. Misty Whittington, Executive Secretary of the Board. Interim Chancellor John M. Dunn, SIUC; Chancellor Randall Pembroke, SIUE; and Dean and Provost Jerry Kruse, SIU School of Medicine; attended the meeting via Zoom videoconference.

Chair Gilbert welcomed President Mahony to his first Board meeting.

The Chair asked that General Counsel Crater speak to the Open Meetings Act variation the Board was operating under pursuant to Governor Pritzker's directive. Mr. Crater reviewed that the Open Meetings Act requires a meeting of a public body must have a quorum physically present at the same location, and members are allowed to join by videoconference or teleconference for limited circumstances. Mr. Crater reported that Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-07 suspended elements of the Open Meeting Act and allows a quorum to be established via videoconference or teleconference so as to allow public bodies to conduct business through the period ending April 30, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair Gilbert explained the procedures for the public comment and question portion of the Board's agenda.

Executive Secretary Misty Whittington read comments received from members of the public.

Ms. Libby Cat, art major from SIUE, expressed concern about the need for a refund of certain fees that are no longer valid such as athletic, studio, computer, parking, meal plans and housing.

Ms. Deborah Emerson expressed concerns about how refunds of studio and materials fees for art students would be addressed. She noted having to repurchase supplies to finish classes for her degree which she did not have access to now on campus but for which she paid a fee.

Mr. Jeremy Noelle expressed concerns on behalf of AFSCME-represented workers employed at SIUC residential halls. He expressed health risk fears of the employees being exposed to the COVID-19 virus while serving students who tested

positive and other students under quarantine in residential halls. He requested the Board of Trustees refund monies to students for housing and close the residential halls at the campus.

Dr. David Johnson, president, SIUC Faculty Association, thanked the Board for meeting to help ensure that SIU treats its students fairly as the COVID-19 crisis unfolds. He recommended that SIU move quickly to refund fees for any services students are not able to use while campus is closed. He recommended planning for longer-term impacts of COVID-19. He offered that the Faculty Association stands ready to be a partner in helping SIUC meet the challenges.

Ms. Lauren Bartlow expressed concern about whether a partial amount of lab fees would be waived since the students are not able to attend the labs and use the lab supplies and equipment.

Mr. Elius Reed inquired whether former SIUC students or alumni would be allowed to use the SIU Morris Library computers, scanner, and other library services.

In addition, Mr. Reed reviewed that in June 2000, and March 2001, public hearings were conducted at the Eurma Hayes Center by SIUC Chancellor John Jackson, SIUC Associate Chancellor For Diversity Seymour Bryson, and other SIUC officials to create a dialogue with the Carbondale northeast community African American residents concerning reasons affecting their lack of participation in the SIUC Civil Service hiring process. A recommendation was made to re-invigorate the SIUC Civil Service learner, trainee, and apprentice learner programs with the goal of increasing diversity. He provided information received from his March 2020 Freedom of Information Act request regarding the ethnicity of employees holding SIUC tenured faculty positions and SIUC

Civil Service job positions. Mr. Reed reviewed that the *Daily Egyptian* reported in March 2020 that SIU President Daniel Mahony began his presidency of the SIU System on March 2, 2020, by signing the CEO Action for Diversity and Inclusion Pledge. He inquired whether President Mahony could provide assistance in having a 2020 Civil Service Employment Workshop conducted at the Eurma Hayes Center.

Ms. Lisa Johnson inquired whether any refund decision would also apply to the SIU Medical School.

The following item was presented:

AUTHORIZATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION FOR REFUNDS

Summary

This matter presents for approval authorization to allow the President of Southern Illinois University to make decisions and take all actions necessary and relative to refunding student fees and charges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rationale for Adoption

On March 9, 2020, the Governor of Illinois issued a Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation in response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and to mitigate its effects. Governor Pritzker has also issued numerous Executive Orders to mitigate and minimize the spread of COVID-19 and help ensure the health and safety of residents and visitors. Likewise, Southern Illinois University has taken many steps to facilitate the health and well-being of its campus communities, which is a top priority for the University.

Particularly, in response to the continuing spread of COVID-19, the institutions of Southern Illinois University extended their previously scheduled spring breaks by an additional week and have subsequently modified courses to provide for online or alternative format learning options for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester. In turn, because most students will not be on campus, Southern Illinois University is considering steps to refund portions of certain fees and charges related to the Spring 2020 semester.

Pursuant to applicable Board of Trustees legislation, including, without limitation, its Policies, the Board retains authority for various fees and charges. Given the fluid situation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of being able to react quickly to related and continually evolving needs and requirements, approval of this matter would delegate to the President, or any designees which he may name, the ability to authorize refunds for portions of certain fees and charges assessed to students enrolled at the Southern Illinois University system's institutions or to provide emergency grants to cover certain student costs as allowed by law. The President will work closely with the Board Treasurer and administrators of Southern Illinois University Carbondale and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in determining which fees and charges to refund, or emergency grants to allow, if any, and in what proportion. In addition, the President will keep the Board of Trustees apprised as plans are made and decisions are implemented.

If approved, this delegation of authority will extend through such a time as the President determines, in consultation with the Board, that the COVID-19 pandemic emergency has passed or until the Board rescinds such delegation, whichever is sooner.

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University in special meeting assembled, That:

(1) The President of Southern Illinois University, or any designees which he may name, be and is hereby authorized to take any and all actions necessary in order to refund portions of certain fees and charges assessed to students enrolled at the Southern Illinois University system's institutions, or provide emergency grants to cover certain student costs as allowed by law, for the Spring 2020 semester.

(2) The President will work closely with the Board Treasurer and leaders of Southern Illinois University Carbondale and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in determining which fees and charges to refund, or emergency grants to allow, if any, and in what proportion. In addition, the President will keep the Board of Trustees apprised as plans are made and decisions are implemented.

(3) This delegation of authority to the President, or any designees which he may name, will extend through such a time as the President determines, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, that the COVID-19 pandemic emergency has passed or until the Board rescinds such delegation, whichever is sooner.

President Mahony noted this type of action has taken place with some other Illinois institutions recently. There will be some money available to the universities from the federal government, but there will be a number of decisions to make over the next several weeks and months about certain fee refunds. The President planned to keep the Board informed about the process, but the proposed action allowed for better efficiency than the Board having to reconvene for action on each single item.

Chancellor Pembroke noted some course fees would need to be reviewed at a micro level. He provided the example that some professors were mailing art materials to students to finish projects that the students would have received in person; therefore, a refund of an art fee to certain students may not be appropriate. He expected within the coming weeks to have analysis of fees for possible refunds.

Chancellor Dunn reported that the Carbondale campus had two students identified with the COVID-19 virus who were doing well. The dormitory where those students live, including 21 total students, was under quarantine. The Chancellor noted he received positive feedback from parents of the two students, and they were complimentary of the care their students are receiving and for the University's handling of the situation. He reviewed the practice of the quarantined students receiving their meals in the dining hall. He noted some employees were on hand to observe the students picking up the meals but the employees were located at least six feet away from the students. The Chancellor noted his office had been consulting with the Jackson County Department of Health, and the University was using their guidelines; no students had direct interaction with the food workers. Chancellor Dunn reported he had good communication with campus constituency groups regarding the possibility of offering a

pass/fail grade option to students for the spring semester. He spoke of the team effort coordinating with the Jackson County Department of Health and the School of Medicine. Students would receive a survey regarding commencement options. His office had been working with the Faculty Senate and Faculty Association about extending the tenure clock for those faculty who need it.

Chair Gilbert inquired how many students were staying on the campuses at the present time. Chancellor Dunn reported about 350 students were at SIUC. Chancellor Pembroke reported 325 to 350 students were at SIUE. The Chair inquired how SIUE students on campus were receiving their meals. Chancellor Pembroke responded that most students were staying in Cougar Village apartments with their own cooking facilities. Dining Services was preparing and delivering meals to those students.

Trustee Sharma inquired about what fees would be refunded. President Mahony responded that the University was prepared to move more quickly to refund a portion of campus housing and dining fees. Some other fees were more complicated, and the receipt of emergency grants and student fundraising were factors for consideration. Chancellor Pembroke provided an example for parking fees that the campus parking cycle was from September to August so it was not yet known what funds may be refunded for parking.

Trustee Sharma moved to approve the item. The motion was duly seconded by Trustee Tedrick. The motion carried by the following recorded vote: aye, Mr. Ed Curtis, Hon. Phil Gilbert, Dr. Ed Hightower, Dr. Brione Lockett, Ms. Mackenzie Rogers, Dr. Subhash Sharma, Ms. Amy Sholar, Mr. John Simmons, Mr. Roger Tedrick; nay, none.

Chair Gilbert reported he and Vice Chair Hightower had been in near constant contact with President Mahony, and he thanked the President for the leadership he had given the SIU system.

President Mahony reviewed that he was holding system phone calls if not daily, several times per week, to make sure they were making decisions in a thoughtful way. In addition, the President reported that he participated in regular teleconferences with other Illinois presidents for the purpose of idea sharing. He reported that SIU employees and student workers were continuing to be paid even when they could not work from home due to the nature of their job, limiting the number of people on campus. He noted there were a number of efforts of SIU employees across the system who were helping support the state in the COVID-19 crisis. He thanked the University's faculty and staff for quickly moving courses online for the students. The President noted that School of Medicine faculty were serving on the front line during COVID-19, and other units were assisting in various ways. The President thanked students for being flexible and listening to advice, and he thanked the leadership at each location to prioritize students. President Mahony reported that some advocated for complete closures of the campuses, but discussed that not all students had safe places to go with food or internet access and considerations were made because each student situation was different.

Chair Gilbert requested that President Mahony and Executive Director of Governmental and Public Affairs John Charles provide an update for what the SIU system is doing for Governor Pritzker and legislators. President Mahony noted that a phone call was held with legislators two weeks earlier, and they would work to provide the synopsis by the end of the day.

Chancellor Pembroke observed the flexibility of faculty, staff, and students was amazing to adjust to in only two weeks. He reviewed that in addition to the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center working toward ramping up production of hand sanitizer, the campus was approached to do COVID testing, and was approached by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for planning. Further, the Chancellor reported that the prior Monday was the beginning of the summer and fall registration period, and the campus received 90 percent of normal registration within the first few days. He noted the campus was tracking bottom-line costs for COVID efforts to share with state and federal bodies when requested. Chancellor Pembroke noted the administration was working with the Faculty Association regarding the option of using pass/fail grades for some courses and grades A through F for other courses to provide flexibility for the students.

Chancellor Dunn thanked President Mahony and Chancellor Pembroke for coordination, and he was pleased with the team effort.

Dean Kruse noted collaboration and teamwork within the SIU system and with state, and hospital partners. He reported the School of Medicine's focus changed mainly for caring for its patients first due to COVID-19. He reported they had worked well with Southern Illinois Healthcare in the Carbondale region, Blessing Health System in west central Illinois, and most specifically a great team in Springfield with Memorial Health System, HSHS St. John's Hospital, Springfield Clinic, and the Sangamon County Health Department. The Dean reported collaboration with government officials of the state including communications with members of the Governor's Office, and on a federal level with Congressmen Rodney Davis and Darin LaHood. The Dean spoke of shortages of

personal protective equipment and that organizations had stepped up, and the government had started to step up to secure more equipment. Dean Kruse praised Dr. Harry Lausen and his response team who worked with others in the area to get to the level of preparedness. He noted that elective surgeries had been stopped, office visits were reduced, and virtual contacts had expanded. Clinical employees were down to 50 percent working on a rotating basis. The Dean spoke of efforts of School of Medicine employees assisting a researcher laboratory when it wanted to add a second shift. Dean Kruse noted the first and second year medical students and physician assistant students were still learning as before. The third and fourth year medical students are sidelined due to Association of American Medical Colleges guidelines but those students are assisting in other ways during the pandemic.

Chair Gilbert noted that further in the future mental health issues may need to be addressed due to the pandemic. Trustee Curtis noted that Dean Kruse's team had established a mental health line. Dean Kruse confirmed that pandemic health workers will be on the ground for that trauma informed care.

President Mahony thanked Dean Kruse for his daily updates which he found informative and comprehensive. He informed the Board that regarding the approved resolution for refund of housing and dining was estimated to cost approximately \$4 million to \$5 million per campus, and the true cost would be known once every individual case was reviewed.

Chair Gilbert announced that the next Board of Trustees meeting would be held April 30, 2020, at SIU Carbondale through a livestream video and Zoom videoconference meeting.

Trustee Lockett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Trustee Simmons. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Misty D. Whittington, Executive Secretary