MINUTES

Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Illinois State University  
June 6, 2014

The Board of Trustees convened at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 6, 2014, in the Old Main Room of Bone Student Center, Illinois State University, Normal. Chairperson McCuskey called the meeting to order and Trustee Davis called the roll.

The following members were present:

Trustee Jay Bergman

Trustee Bob Churney (via phone)

Trustee Anne Davis

Trustee Rocky Donahue

Trustee Betty Kinser

Trustee Mike McCuskey

Trustee Aaron Von Qualen

According to statute, a quorum of the Board is five voting members who are physically present at the location of the meeting—we have six members present, so the requirement is met. Also according to statute, once a quorum is met, the Board may allow a member to attend the meeting by other means if the member is prevented from physically attending because of illness or disability, business reasons or family emergency.

Trustee Churney is attending by telephone today. Trustee Churney, what is the nature of your need to attend by telephone?

Churney: For business purposes.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**You have before you the Agenda of the meeting. Do I have a motion to approve the Agenda? Trustee Kinser so moved and was seconded by Trustee Davis. Motion made, seconded and vote recorded as all members voting aye.

**CHAIRPERSON REMARKS**

Good morning and thank you for taking the time to attend this special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University. I note for the record that notice of today’s meeting was posted in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act and that the public has been notified of the date, time and location of this meeting.   
  
The purpose of today’s meeting is the consideration of two resolutions: One regarding tuition, fees, room and board rates for the 2014-2015 academic year at Illinois State University, and the second is a contract for library journal subscriptions for Milner Library.

I will now turn the meeting over to President Larry Dietz to present the resolutions.

**PRESIDENT’S REMARKS**

Thank you Trustee McCuskey and good morning everyone. I want to begin by thanking our Trustees for taking time away from their busy schedules for this special meeting.

As I indicated at our May 9 meeting, the University was reluctant to bring the Board a recommendation for FY2015 tuition, fees, room and board due to the uncertainty over state appropriations for the coming year. The spring legislative session ended last week and Illinois State received a FY2015 appropriation of almost $73,900,000, which is very close to our FY2014 appropriation.

This level of funding allows the University to do what we had hoped we could do—which is to propose a very modest increase in our tuition, fees, room and board. I would say if we had the kinds of reductions that at one time were anticipated, we would not be able to keep the recommendations as modest as they are. I will now present that resolution.

Resolution 2014.06/17: FY2015 Student Tuition, Fees and Room and Board Rates

As you know, tuition and fees are among the most important factors affecting access to and affordability of higher education. Illinois State is very sensitive to students’ and their families’ investment in a college education, and we continue to work with state and national leaders to provide affordable access to our institution despite the lack of state financial support, which now hovers around 18% of the total university budget.

I also want to remind you that for 70 percent of our students, tuition will not increase at all, because of the four-year guaranteed tuition rate for undergraduate students. In proposing tuition rates for new students in FY2015 we have followed Board policy to ensure our rates are competitive with other senior public universities.

For new in-state undergraduate students, we are recommending $349 per semester credit-hour for the 2014-2015 academic year. This rate is $7 or 2.05 percent more per semester credit-hour than was charged new in-state students in 2013-2014. Over a four-year academic period, this equates to an annual increase of .51 percent.

For new out-of-state undergraduate students, we are recommending $602 per semester credit-hour for the 2014-2015 academic year. This rate is $12 more per semester credit hour than was charged new out-of-state undergraduates for the 2013-2014 year. However, under the Enrollment Competitiveness Program that you approved during a previous meeting, selected high-achieving or talented out-of-state students or students residing in states contiguous to Illinois would be eligible to pay the in-state rates.

For in-state graduate students, we seek your approval for $360 per semester credit-hour for the 2014-2015 academic year. This rate is $15 more than semester credit-hour rates for 2013-2014. The four-year guarantee does not apply to graduate tuition rates. For out-of-state graduate students, we seek a charge of $747 per semester credit-hour for the 2014-2015 academic year. This represents a $31 increase over 2013-2014 rates.

For mandatory fees, the University requests authority to charge mandatory fees to all new students, including new and continuing graduate students, of $78.66 per semester credit hour. This rate is $1.54 more per semester credit-hour than was charged students new to the University in fall 2013.

The University also requests authority to increase the off-campus outreach fee assessed for courses offered off-campus over the Internet to $78.66, an increase of $1.54 per semester credit-hour.

For room and board, the University requests authority to increase room rates by 2.5 percent with no increase for dining rates. These requests combine for an overall blended housing and dining rate of just 1.4 percent.

As you can see on the slide—for Illinois State, this represents an overall increase of $415 or just 1.9 percent. I believe this is a reasonable figure given the state’s continuing economic circumstances and its inability to increase support for public higher education. Under our projected costs, this also places us 4th among the 10 public universities that offer room and board packages. I ask your approval of this resolution.

McCuskey: Is there a motion to approve? Trustee Donahue so moved and was seconded by Trustee Von Qualen.

Donahue: I am going to support the resolution but I am concerned about the cost of higher education today as it relates overall, not just here at Illinois State. You mentioned we did receive a modest decrease from the state but it’s pretty apparent our state funding continues to dwindle as you stated at 18% now. I believe when I was in school in the early 80s it was close to 80%. I am hoping staff is developing and going to share with us those contingency plans. I even challenge the staff to look at ways of making the cost of education a little more affordable. Maybe it’s more grants, maybe it’s more stipends for students. While I understand the need and again I am supportive but again I want to state that this isn’t something I take lightly and I really hope that we look at other ways to try to make it more affordable.

Bergman: First, I just want to mention something that Rocky mentioned as far as affordability. I am not sure what is going to come out of it but the Board of Higher Education has now formed an affordability committee to look at the overall system including all of the universities to try to determine some strategies that would make an education in Illinois less expensive. Again, I don’t know what will happen. I am on the committee and we just had our first meeting, but wanted to mention that. To the motion, we are looking at a very small percentage. How is this determined?

Dietz: I would say the overall guiding principle is back to the concern of affordability and we begin to look at the inflation rate that we normally incur just as a cost of doing business and try to keep very close to that inflation rate. There are some things that we can’t control as well as we would like to but I would say that inflation rate was the overall arching principle about all of this.

Bergman: Forgetting room and board for a moment, just tuition, how much in a way of additional dollars are we anticipating bringing in?

Alt: Regarding the additional dollars this increase since it is phased in over four years the first year will raise an additional $1 million, but over the four year phase it will add about $3.2 million to our revenue base.

Bergman: Well that is over four years. We have a certain dollar amount of tuition revenue that we have received in the year that is just ending. If we had the same number of students next year as this year, would our total increase just from tuition be $1 million.

Alt: Because other prior increases are phasing in, the total new revenue for this year would be $5.2 million with same enrollment.

Bergman: So we are replacing the lowest rate, the seniors that are graduating, with the highest rate of the freshmen that are coming in?

Alt: Yes.

Bergman: So I think you got to what I was getting at. There is a $5.2 million increase and this Board hasn’t seen any budget yet for the year and I understand that it is pretty hard that we didn’t know until a few days ago what the General Assembly was going to do, but do you think that we can keep the increase in cost of operating the University to $5.2 million?

Alt: Yes, I do and I think that in addition to the fact that our inflationary cost will be about 2 percent, so with our base funding we will be able to cover our costs.

Davis: I do appreciate that we are looking at a modest increase and at the same time we are retaining educational excellence, because that is important as well. So trying to balance the two I know is not an easy thing, so I do appreciate that. As Rocky mentioned I certainly do hope that we can begin to look at some options in terms of what we might do to augment or help to not have increases with our tuition. Unfortunately, we bear that burden because the state continues to diminish the amount of funding that we get. That being the case, one of the questions I had thinking about graduation rates and I believe graduation rates are based on a six-year attendance and I know a number of our students do go beyond the four years. The first question is what is the tuition rate that fifth and sixth year? And how does that impact our students who attend a fifth or sixth year and do we have an appreciable number of students who are attending beyond the fourth year?

Dietz: Overall the students across higher education haven’t graduated in four years in the history of American higher education – it’s always been a tad longer than that. Fulltime students will often times change their major, they will come in sometimes not knowing what their major is going to be, so often times it has been 4 ½ years kind of being the national norm. Illinois State University is an exception to that in that we have more students who really do know what they want to do when they come in door and our staff and faculty work very hard with those who don’t. So I would say from ISU’s perspective, our students do graduate on time more than many other institutions. So in terms of the fifth and six year students, Greg will answer that.

Alt: Trustee Davis, part of it is in the complexity of the Truth and Tuition. It has two components to it. The first is that you are guaranteed your entering rate for a period to complete your degree in four years. Then as a second component, if they have not completed their degree in the four years, they get for two more years a rate of the class right behind them. So this year’s sophomores if they do not graduate in four years, for two more years will be paying this year’s freshmen’s rate. The second part of your question regarding how many then pay at that rate, about 7 percent of our students enter into that fifth, sixth and beyond. So really you have a guarantee through six years of a reduced rate.

Davis: That fifth or sixth year they would pay the rate for students who were entering during their sophomore year?

Alt: Correct. Also to add to the concern about the affordability, we do have certain things that we are doing with this tuition. We are providing additional grants, supplementing the MAP – $11 million this year and budget of $12 million next year to help offset some of those costs between what the state funds in MAP and what our costs are.

Davis: What about scholarships – what kind of monies have we budgeted for those?

Alt: I think all together institutionally we are up to about $20 million when you consider the MAP and other funds. In our enrollment management plan we are adding to that each year so we have in addition to the presidential scholars we have the Redbird scholarship that is helping supplement that. So I think in total and I would have to verify it and get back with you but I think in general institutional funds are about $20 million.

Churney: Regarding the current year we are going into all indications are applications are at a record number so we will be up significantly from last year so with that type of increase in student enrollment, will we have to add to expenses for professors, more classrooms, just overall expenses and is that factored into the increase that they are proposing?

Dietz: The answer to the question is yes. As we develop the budget for this next year our numbers are up and that is a good thing in terms of the overall budget. It presents some challenges in terms of course availability and some additional challenges related to housing, but as we develop the budget for next year we are working to make sure we have the appropriate number of classes with the appropriate number of faculty teaching those classes and provide housing to freshmen and as many sophomores as we can.

Donahue: If you look at the whole picture – I know we are talking about tuition and fees and housing, but if you look at the whole picture is it correct that out of all the state universities you have listed here, we are having the smallest increase? It looks like second to Eastern. So I want to commend Greg and the whole finance staff being cognizant and I also think it is one thing that our tuition went up higher where others are making fees go up. As a parent who has paid a lot with children in college, at the end of the day it was the bottom line for me. It wasn’t just tuition so I am glad to see that we are other than Eastern lower than the other universities.

Kinser: What happens to in-house undergraduate students when they graduate and go to grad school – what cost do they assume?

Alt: The Truth and Tuition doesn’t apply to grad school so they will pay that current new rate.

McCuskey: Speaking of a big jump in anticipation of this – I was sitting in a Rotary meeting this week with again one of our successful ISU graduates who is now a veterinarian – so he asked how much is tuition and fees going to increase? When I said 2 percent he says wow, it wasn’t that good when I was in school. I told him I think this is one of the lowest increases we have had in the last ten years so he looked at that now a business man and says I hope that doesn’t hurt you in the future. Southern Illinois a couple of years ago grandstanded and went with no raise and lost students. Eastern Illinois went with no raise and just announced this week they have lost students again. I look at it as quality. An example, if you are going to Kmart or are you going to Kohls and people look at those two differently. I guarantee you we are still looked at differently by people when they go down that list. So a 2 percent increase is a small increase and we don’t know what the future is. This is maybe the most conservative move we have ever made. To give you an example of games we also don’t play. Depending on what school you are admitted to at the University of Illinois you get a different rate. We don’t do that. Fees are the biggest gimmick in the world. You can have a low tuition and high fees and make it up there. I think we have been good stewards of the money for the students – good stewards in trying to give COLAs to the employees and in effect keep all the balls up in the air successful and the quality of the University has been successful. We are reasonably priced for quality. I don’t know where we are going but we have been fair to the taxpayers, we have been fair to the students and this is a fair increase.

Bergman: I have a document that the others don’t have. The general revenue that we are getting this coming year from the General Assembly is $73,889,000. The income fund that is projected is $176,274,000 for a total of about $250 million. That doesn’t include room and board and any of that type of thing. From looking at a $5.2 million increase on $250 million of expenditures gets back to about 2 percent. I don’t know how anybody can get upset about that. That is the rate of inflation more or less and it is very realistic. I have been on the Board longer than my colleagues and as far as I can recall, it’s the lowest percentage increase that we have had in the 10-11 years that I have been here.

Kinser: Do we have any idea of the impact of out-of-state students and paying in-state fees and what the requirements are to apply for that?

Alt: The impact as far as f how many dollars that generates – I don’t have that with me. We do have the competitive enrollment program so that we can let people from border states pay the in-state rates for talented students. We will be glad to look and see how many pay an out-of-state rate and what that generates.

Kinser: Just would like to know if that population really does exist and how much it amounts to.

Dietz: It exists but it is a miniscule amount. One, because the enrollment competitiveness is a relatively new program – it is getting some legs but it wasn’t designed to give everybody an in-state rate. It was very targeted in terms of the talented students that we are trying to bring in from out-of-state.

Davis: The key word is competitive because we know that other states that are contiguous to us are drawing students from Illinois, so if we want to get some of their students we are going to have to compete and this is one way.

McCuskey: Motion made, seconded and vote recorded as all members present voting aye.

Resolution 2014.06/18: Contract for Milner Library Journal Subscriptions

EBSCO Industries is the primary periodicals and electronic databases vendor for Milner Library and provides volume discounts to the desired database and subscription services.

This Board previously authorized Milner Library to spend up to $2.2 million for journal subscriptions annually the past four fiscal years. Due to increases in the number of databases and subscriptions, as well as publisher price increases, the renewal for FY2015 is estimated at $2.4 million.

Today, we seek Board authorization to increase the journal subscriptions renewal with EBSCO Industries from the currently approved $2.2 million to $2.4 million for FY2015 and future fiscal years with expenditures not to increase by more than 10 percent annually for additional services. This request for spending authority is for FY2015 with the option for three annual renewals and will assure availability of the journals necessary to support quality programs and research at Illinois State University. I ask your approval for this resolution.

McCuskey: Do I have a motion to approve? Trustee Davis so moved and was seconded by Trustee Von Qualen.

Donahue: I have a whole host of questions. I don’t know if it is coincidental timing but when we got our packets with this information I had just read an article in Crain’s Chicago about a start-up company called Scholastic LLC, so I am wondering if I am even in the same ballpark because I know nothing about this subject. But this article really opened up my eyes to the subscription services because it appears in just as our resolution says won’t increase by more than 10 percent annually. We just talked about tuition at 2 percent, we just talked about consumer price index. It appears somehow these subscriptions are consistently outstripping the CPI. My first question is are these subscriptions like my cable where I get a bundled programming where I get 200 channels and I watch 12 but I have to pay for all 200 – is it the same with subscriptions? Are we just paying picking and choosing out of this $2.4 million?

Dietz: Let me answer broadly and I may ask Provost Everts and Dean Dane Ward perhaps to elaborate. But you are exactly right in terms of the bundling piece. The other part of this is the publisher price increases. That is true whether you are talking about a journal subscriptions or book prices for students are either buying or renting their books. The book stores often times get blamed for the increase in pricing, but it is really the publisher that sets all of that and it is well above the consumer price index. So that is kind of a global answer but perhaps Provost Everts or Dean Ward can answer further.

Everts: I would agree completely with what President Dietz offered. I would also say that we appreciate the opportunity for you to consider this resolution and I am going to at this point ask Dean Ward to come up and answer the very specific questions the Board may have.

Ward: Let me give you a little context for the nature of information. The library is not what it once was when we were all students and the information universe is much more complicated. EBSCO is an intermediary for us with access of thousands of databases, thousands of print and electronic journals and databases and an interface that the library uses for access to all of those databases. Typically what we go through is we are challenged greatly every year by inflation increases with our journals and typically what happens is we go through an exercise on an annual basis to figure out what can we get rid of. We do that through evaluations of circulation and use of those databases, the journals that are being used and talking with faculty about what they really use. We have conversations with departments about what is actually being used.

Let me give you a little context about EBSCO. EBSCO is our major periodical producer. We received from them currently 2,924 print and electronic journals and 63 databases as well as this interface that I mentioned that searches 20-30 different databases in one fell swoop. Our total materials budget for the library has been pretty stable for the last four years – about $4 million. The amount that we spend through EBSCO has increased from about $1.8 million to 2.2 million. We have done some analysis of the inflation. The serials are notorious for inflationary costs that are 7-9 percent over the years. We have done some analysis on EBSCO and how is that increasing on a year to year basis. In an aggregate analysis of our expenses with EBSCO it has increased about 5 percent. That is a very loose way of thinking about our work with EBSCO because we are probably getting rid of some databases and adding some things and that is not so clear. My business manager has just done an analysis of an item by item increase in journals and databases that we get through EBSCO and it, again, is about 5 percent. This is below average. A recent survey of periodicals increases is about 6 percent. So what we are doing with EBSCO is just a little below inflation for the industry.

Why are we working so much with this one vendor and there are some benefits having to do with efficiencies, staff time. If we did not work with an intermediary like EBSCO, we would be with thousands of publishers on our own. This is what we used to do and it is very expensive in terms of staff time. In fact, they are helping us manage all these journals and databases. We also get big discounts from them. I think from the perspective of faculty and students it is really important that we maintain some level of consistency of the interfaces that they are using. It’s confusing if you are searching databases and they all look different and they search differently. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Donahue: I guess I need to clarify that in no means was my comments attacking what you are doing. I guess I am more concerned about the industry and the whole point of the cost of doing business. When I look at technology in most industries is lower costs and in some cases have put some things out of business – newspapers and other things. In this case, this seems to be immune to that type of competition. I think it seems to be more of an advantage even when you said it is projected to rise 6 percent. Well it far outpaces the CPI and in this case you would think technology would help lower that cost. My frustration is by no means with you and making a decision to go with EBSCO, its more of the bigger picture in this and I appreciate what you are doing to try to make it only a 5 percent increase. I wish it were more in line with what I would call the real world and nothing against what staff has done.

Ward: I should say there is a constant debate about the publishing industry and how to lower cost in academic institutions and libraries and specifically I really have been trying to develop and alternative scholarly communication which is based on open access to scholarship and what you may know about the legislation from this last year where all public institutions are required to investigate what we can do to make the research that comes out of ISU publicly available. So we have a committee chaired by Jim Jawahar investigating this. Initially the whole pen access movement was trying to address the escalating cost of journals – if we could take more ownership of those articles then we wouldn’t have to pay as much through the journals – we would just make them freely available. But it is much more complicated than what we realized.

Dietz: Trustee Donahue this might by something that we want to turn over to our two young entrepreneurs that came out of the College of Business that received $250,000 from Shark Tank and created PackBack to come up with some innovative ways of addressing this issue. You are right, you would think that technology would lower the cost but with the text books, at one time it was thought that the use of e-books would skyrocket. That really has not been the case, it has taken a lot of R&D to bring that up, which has increased the cost. But the usage of that has not been as apparent as one might think.

Von Qualen: I spend a lot of late nights with Milner’s website and coffee utilizing this resource. It has served me well certainly and I am sure will continue to serve ISU’s students well moving forward.

McCuskey: Trustee Churney, any comments?

Churney: I just want to let everyone know that I am only getting part of the communication but I have no further comments.

McCuskey: Motion made, seconded and vote recorded as all members present voting aye.

Trustees, do you have any further comments?

Bergman: I just want to follow up a little on the tuition. Some comments were made by some of the other universities losing students. Most all of the public universities in Illinois are losing students. Really Champaign/Urbana and us are the two universities of choice. There is a number of reasons for that, which are not relevant to our conversation today other than tuition. It has been shown on some other studies that I have seen and this is just common sense that the higher you raise the tuition, the more horror stories people hear about the amount of money that is owed at the end of a college career, the more students do not attend college. I think there is going to have to be at some point of time, whether statewide or on the national level, there is going to have to be some type of change made in the higher education system. What I mean by that is tuition, fees, the cost of going to college are just too high. We are losing students because they can’t or don’t want to spend the money. The whole system needs to change. We can do what we can here at ISU to try to keep increases to a minimum. But, frankly, the cost are what they have to be now for us to succeed as an institution but they are way too high throughout the whole system.

Kinser: I think to add to that is also the percent of payback, which when students graduate is becoming pretty difficult to deal with.

McCuskey: I want to take a moment to pat ourselves on the back. I had a number of parents and grandparents who have seen me in the last month say how much graduation was. How do you get traffic in and out, how do you make it work. And I responded I guarantee the trustees have nothing to do with that. For all of you made graduation another success I pat you on the back. Also, I want to thank Sheri Everts for her service to the University. One of the things I think that tells who we are is when people leave – where do they go? Do they leave here and go to some liberal arts school we have never heard of? Well Sheri is going on as president of Appalachian State and I want to give her a round of applause for that success.

In the athletics department we had again another successful spring season. It was just a matter of time before we lost one of our star coaches. Mark Kingston has built the baseball program back in a short period of time to be one of the top programs in the Missouri Valley. A program when he started we never thought we would ever beat Wichita State – five years later we have a better baseball program than Wichita State. Mark Kingston it was announced this week will be the new baseball coach at the University of South Florida in Tampa. And, also heading for the sunshine we know that Dan Layzell is now a member of the Southeast Conference in Louisiana State. When we lose people, they certainly move up in life and success.

Last Friday, the Champaign News Gazette ran a front-page picture of me turning out the lights at 6:00 p.m. in my courtroom. I met with Senator Durbin and was going to leave the federal court in July of last year and he asked that I stay and I promised I would stay six months after my successor was named. My successor came on in November. The newspaper did a nice job of showing me turning off the lights. The News Gazette apparently thought it was a successful run as 16 years as a federal judge. On Monday they put a picture of me waving goodbye.

Last November I told the Board that I was going to leave the federal court and I was going to leave this Board at the same time. So the Board has known for some time that I would be leaving – this is my last Board meeting. So within one week I gave up a lifetime tenured job, and applied for another job yesterday. I have confidence and courage in my future. I expect to be re-employed next month. This Board has been one of the best things that I have done in my life. This Board all graduated from Illinois State. What a wonderful thing to have has a Board. We are a collegial group, we get along well and we have to make tough decisions and we have. It’s a better university than when we came and it’s not because of us. It’s because of the students, the faculty, the administration. It means a lot to the Board that people believe in the University and everything we do is moving forward. That is why I thank Larry Dietz for taking a position at a tough time but making great personnel decisions of people who are going to make this University a better place. The University moves forward and how do you know that? Well, we just recently had a 45th anniversary of the baseball program. Some people don’t come back regularly – they live north of Interstate 80 and their life stays in Cook County. All the baseball players couldn’t believe the facilities, the changes, couldn’t believe how good the University looked and all said they had to bring their family and friends and show them what Illinois State looks like. We don’t beat our drums loud enough. We have success everywhere. So this will be my last Board meeting and this is like a big battleship. It moves forward – maybe there is a little rough water from time to time but the battleship of Illinois State is moving continuously for success. I thank the Board for their friendship and support. I thank all of you for your friendship and support. Thank you.

Davis: I cannot leave this meeting without first of all thanking you, Mike, for being the colleague that you have been. You and I came to the Board at the same time and at that time you did not hold the position as chairperson, but you have always been an inclusive team player in terms of your performance on this Board. Then when you took the helm of this Board, you continued to make sure that as a Board we were always informed. I never had any doubt in terms of what we were going to be dealing with. You sought our input and I know there were times that it was not easy for you to do your regular job and then make calls. Those calls people don’t know about during your late evening hours or very early morning hours. So I just really appreciate the time that you have given to this Board. You have led with integrity, you have led with honesty and you certainly have been a friend. Thank you so very much. Words cannot express my appreciation for the job that you have done, the person you have been on this Board, how you have kept us together. We have had differences but we have never became disengaged, and it was because of your leadership. So I do thank you for that.

Kinser: In case anyone wants to ask, he has not told us what he is going to be doing in the future either.

McCuskey: My application hasn’t been accepted so I am just like anybody else out there in the job search, but I am ready to change course. I am ready to lighten my load and I have no doubt that this Board will continue to do well. I am just one of the stewards. I came with Carl and he did a great job and Stan and Joanne and Bob Dobski. Whoever is one the Board has the best interest of this University and community. We sometimes disagree but are never disagreeable, and we have fun – we laugh and we are friends. We will leave that way and I will always be around here and grateful that this is where I started.

Churney: Mike, my one regret is that I wish I could have been there in person today. I want to thank you – you were the first to welcome me. Your leadership this past year, the open communication, the understanding and willingness to take the tough stance and we followed your lead a lot of times. The mentoring you gave me over the last year – always being able to talk with me and answer questions if I called you at 9:00 at night or 7:30 in the morning. You were always available for me and for the Board. And, always the great stories. I want to say that the ISU community has been very fortunate to have your leadership and passion over the years and you are a true Redbird. So thank you again Mike and we will connect in the near future.

McCuskey: We are going to have President Dietz and then we are going to move onto Executive Session.

Dietz: I appreciate the opportunity to chime in here. I clearly wouldn’t be in the chair that I am in today in this position without the support of this Board and Chairman McCuskey. I am very grateful for that. I will say that this isn’t about me and my position and I know that you have had the same idea. Our service here is about Illinois State University and about all the faculty, staff, students and the alums that attended and all the prospective students that we hope will come here. You have been an exemplary leader with that Chairman McCuskey. We don’t doubt your dedication to this institution. We eagerly anticipate regular visits and really appreciate your leadership and it is a better place than when you went here, but you have helped make it better and we all know that and thank you very much.

McCuskey: Well, thank everyone for the comments and as a kid I used to watch a show that ended with “That’s all folks”.

For the record, there were no requests for public comment for this special meeting. 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 120/2 (c)(1); collective negotiating matters between the University and its employees, 5ILCS, Section 120/2 (c)(2); litigation which has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, as allowed in 5ILCS, Section 120/2 (c)(11); and the purchase or lease of real property as allowed in 5ILCS, Section 120/2 (c)(5). Is there a motion? Trustee Kinser so moved and was seconded by Trustee Donahue. Motion made, seconded and vote recorded as all members present voting aye.

We will now move into Executive Session. At the close of Executive Session, the Board will reconvene in public session only for the purpose to adjourn. Thank you all for coming today.