

STATE GOVERNMENT

# Bill proposed to keep police training at UI

## House measure would apply \$25 surcharge to all convictions in order to fund program

By **TOM KACICH**  
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SPRINGFIELD — A bill to provide a source of continued funding for the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois has been introduced in the Illinois House.

The legislation would establish a Law Enforcement Training Fund to provide

equal amounts of operating money for PTI, the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board and the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System, located in the old Champaign County Nursing Home in east Urbana.

Revenue for the training fund would come from a \$25 surcharge applied on all felony and misdemeanor convictions

in the state, according to state Rep. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet. He is sponsor of an agreed amendment to House Bill 4146, legislation sponsored by Rep. Naomi Jakobsson, D-Urbana.

The \$25 surcharge would yield between \$6 million and \$12 million annually, Rose said.

The legislation would not only help keep the 56-year-old training academy open, but would help it expand its mission, he said.

“The whole goal here is to make

PTI a world-class destination for law enforcement, well beyond the sort of boot-camp training for first-year cadets. We want to have cutting-edge research in sociology and criminal justice issues, with access for physiology and kinesiology faculty to what goes on in intense situations,” said Rose, a former county prosecutor.

He suggested that researchers in other campus disciplines could work with the PTI on such issues as cyber-crime and cyberterrorism.

“Having our world-class faculty in there gives us a nice working laboratory that will take something that is great and make it even better, and make it a destination,” he said.

The associate director of the PTI, Michael Schlosser, has written a draft “vision” of the new PTI that calls for it “to become a nationally recognized center for research and training” in law enforcement.

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# PTI

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"PTI trains over 200 recruits a year, providing a large sample size of subjects to conduct research while recruits attend the academy, as well as longitudinal studies post-academy," wrote Schlosser, a retired Rantoul Police Department lieutenant who has been a full-time PTI employee since 2004. He is scheduled to become its interim director later this month when current director Barbara O'Connor moves to the University of Connecticut.

"In addition having over 200 client police agencies," Schlosser continued, "PTI has the opportunity to conduct research involving veteran officers of varying years of

service, responsibilities and ranks. Using these resources would enable PTI to become the premier research police academy in the United States and gain worldwide status."

More than a year ago, an Urbana campus committee recommended closing PTI, contending that it had little connection to the UI's educational mission and that the university could no longer subsidize its operation.

But Jakobsson, Rose, state Sen. Mike Frerichs, D-Champaign, and Urbana Mayor Laurel Prussing appeared before the UI board of trustees two months ago and asked that it help keep the institute open. Rose said its presence at the university contributes \$7 million to the local economy.

UI spokeswoman Robin Kaler said the university is

evaluating the newly revised legislation.

"We're not trying to cut out anybody else. We just want to make sure that PTI stays here," Jakobsson said earlier this week.

"I want to thank the board of trustees," Rose said. "They heard us out when we went over that day and said that they would give us a little more time to work this out. Frankly, I don't expect anybody to float this. If it doesn't work, it doesn't work."

"But it doesn't mean we shouldn't do our best to keep these jobs local, keep this economic input local and grow it into a world-class destination with a new vision."

Currently, PTI is training a class of 48 recruits, Schlosser said, and it expects to be take on another class in April.

## Visiting academics want Hogan meeting

The Association of Academic Professionals (AAP) and the Illinois Education Association (IEA), our affiliated union, are frustrated with University of Illinois President Mike Hogan, who has twice cancelled a meeting with IEA President Cinda Klickna and AAP officers.

We share common interests; one example is working with legislators in Springfield to secure funding for higher education.

We cannot understand his seeming disregard for our organization, which represents the visiting academic professionals (VAP) on campus and works to support the 3,500 academic professionals who help keep this university functioning.

Academic professionals work in a large variety of capacities across campus such as instructors, researchers, librarians, counselors, IT professionals and theater professionals at Krannert Center. The AAP is working to once again reschedule this meet-

ing. IEA President Klickna is an alumna of the University of Illinois and currently an Ambassador. President Hogan's disregard for her position, time and the goodwill she brings the university is confounding.

Unions across campus are encountering unwillingness by university administration to deal with our issues promptly and fairly. The AAP is currently in contract nego-

tiations with the UI over the visiting academic professionals' contract.

The VAPs have been working without a contract and without a raise since mid-August of 2011, the only staffers who did not receive a raise this appointment year. We call on university administration to deal with all staff and faculty with respect and decency.

The most recent UI scandal is a bitter pill to swallow as hard-working visiting academic professionals toil without a raise.

ROSE KACZMAROWSKI  
UIUC Association of Academic  
Professionals/IEA-NEA  
Champaign

## EDITORIALS

# Pension idea would be problem

*The state may try to solve its pension problems by passing the buck.*

Gov. Pat Quinn, in his State of the State speech Wednesday, briefly alluded to the financial problems surrounding Illinois' public pension systems, stating that there will be no easy fix.

He's right, and we're looking forward to the recommendations made by a Quinn-organized working group made up of legislators and members of the governor's staff.

But Quinn as well as House Speaker Michael Madigan and Senate President John Cullerton already have dropped some big hints about some changes they would like to see in funding pensions for retired teachers and public university employees. Unfortunately, one of their big ideas is not so much reform as passing the buck to local school boards and university administrators.

Gov. Quinn has said that the practice of the state paying for employee contributions to the Teachers' Retirement System and the State Universities Retirement System "requires careful examination" because employers "need to have a stake in funding their own employees' pension costs." In other words, the payment made (or not made) by the state should be made instead by the employer.

Madigan has made similar comments. One never knows exactly where he really stands because he doesn't so much announce a position as drop hints.

Nonetheless, Madigan recently suggested it was something unusual for employers not to have skin in the game with regard to their

employees' pensions.

(What's really absurd is for Madigan to make any statement about reform when he was responsible for legislation that allowed two Springfield teachers' union lobbyists to qualify for lifetime \$100,000-a-year teacher pensions after working one day each as substitute teachers.)

Adopting this plan would require local school districts and universities to assume a huge new financial burden. A spokesman for the Illinois Association of School Boards characterized that shift in responsibility as meaning "an \$800 million cut in public education funding or ... an \$800 million property tax increase to cover pension costs."

Those choices won't do much for the digestion of school board members across the state.

They probably would note that they already make substantial payments to the Teachers' Retirement System for their employees' pensions. They certainly would argue that this new burden would be unendurable.

Although they cannot impose property taxes, public universities would face the same cost burden, creating one more reason to keep raising tuition.

This proposal should not be adopted, and perhaps it won't pass muster with Quinn's working group. The governor's office already is getting some blow-back on the issue.

But Quinn and Co. are laying the groundwork to ease their burden by increasing the burdens of school board members and university trustees. Those who would be affected should consider themselves forewarned.

## Saturday finals scheduled for financial aid

BY SARI LESK  
STAFF WRITER

This fall, the University will join a small portion of the Big Ten schools that schedule Saturday finals.

The other schools in the Big Ten that hold exams on Saturday are the University of Wisconsin, the University of Minnesota and Purdue University.

"Ideally, especially for those who have to travel, it might not be ideal," said Jordan Derbas, senior in LAS. "I mean, traveling over the weekend is going to be more expensive than traveling over the week. I do know other Big Ten schools have finals on Saturdays, so I don't think it's too big of an issue, especially if it's for a reason that's financial aid."

Larry Lockwood, assistant provost for enrollment services in the Office of the Registrar at the University of Iowa, said the university recently revised its finals schedule and the committee considered scheduling finals on Saturday as an option. The ultimate decision, however, uses only Monday through Friday for exams, as well as the previous Sunday evening for conflicts if requested by a professor.

On Nov. 7, the Urbana-Champaign Senate approved an action by voice-vote that compresses finals week for the Fall 2012 semester by sched-

uling final exams on Saturday, Dec. 15. This decision was announced by the University to students via email last week. Finals will end on Thursday, Dec. 20.

"I think it's kind of an inconsistent move, because it's going to force some students to have a shorter exam week, and their exams are closer together," said Eitan Barlaz, graduate student.

Gay Miller, professor and chair of the senate's Committee on Educational Policy, said in an email that the final decision involved student input throughout the entire process.

Miller said the change to the calendar stemmed from the need to meet the Federal Financial Aid disbursement deadline. Leaving the calendar as was could have prevented students from receiving their financial aid "in a timely fashion," she said.

While not changing the calendar would have affected students who receive financial aid, the decision to change the calendar affects a wide range of people.

"This solution shares the burden among students, faculty and campus administrators," according to the approved proposal.

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# FINALS

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Faculty, for example, have one less day to grade exams and calculate final grades for students. According to the proposal, "faculty can plan their syllabi accordingly" regarding the impacts of this schedule change, as they have received advanced notice.

The addition of Saturday finals will also affect Jewish students who observe the sabbath, which goes from Friday at sundown to Saturday at sundown. These students are allowed to request a conflict exam because of religious observance.

This is not the first time the University has scheduled Saturday finals, Miller said. She added that the committee does not expect this schedule to be a regular occurrence in the University calendar. However, according to the academic senate meeting minutes, this solution is also considered a trial for future time compressions in the calendar.

## YOUR VOICE

### Q: What is your opinion on Saturday finals?

COMPILED BY MEGAN PIOTROWSKI  
STAFF WRITER



"I'm not a fan of it. I guess it helps because we get to go home earlier, but I'd rather just wait and do it on a weekday, because I used to get to study on Saturday, or it was a day to catch up on sleep or whatever."

**MEAGAN CONRATH,**  
freshman in ACES



"Personally, I don't really care about having exams on Saturday, because I may or may not have it then, and any other day would be the same."

**HOMARI ODA,**  
freshman in ACES



"I personally think that's gonna kind of suck, because Saturday is usually when I do my most studying, so that takes away one more day from the studying. Leaves me just Sunday, really."

**SEYI TAI OLANBIWONNU,**  
sophomore in LAS



"I personally think that it's okay that we have finals on a Saturday, because it seems like it was a necessity more than just like "Oh, they wanted to push it to a Saturday" and make students go to school on a Saturday."

**ANDREW WONG,**  
junior in Education

## UIC student sexually assaulted near campus

A University of Illinois at Chicago student was sexually assaulted last weekend not far from campus, the university said Thursday.

The 24-year-old woman was grabbed at knifepoint between 2:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday at Paulina Street near Harrison Street. Two men covered her face with a dark hat, pushed her inside a vehicle and sexually assaulted her, according to an alert issued by the university.

After the sexual assault, the woman was punched and then pushed out of the vehicle, losing consciousness after hitting her head on the ground, the alert said. She was treated at the University of Illinois Hospital.

Police advised students to travel in groups, particularly after dark, and cautioned against using electronic devices when walking alone.

— Jonathan Bullington

# Emanuel names Paula Wolff to head City Colleges board

BY FRAN SPIELMAN

City Hall Reporter  
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Determined to deliver on his "college-to-careers" makeover of the Chicago City Colleges, Mayor Rahm Emanuel is bringing new leadership to the board that oversees the system for the third time in two years.

Board member Paula Wolff, who spent eight years as president of Governor's State University, will replace Martin Cabrera Jr. as board chairman.

The City Hall shuffle calls for Cabrera to become chairman of the Chicago Plan Commission, replacing Linda Searl. Cabrera is the founder and CEO of Cabrera Capital Markets, one of Chicago's leading Hispanic investment banks. The firm is a long-standing recipient of pinstripe patronage from city bond issues.

The massive City Colleges system is in the midst of a makeover to prepare students for jobs in growth industries, including health care, transportation, aviation, information technology and hospitality.

Companies that specialize in those areas will help write the curriculum, teach and mentor students and, hopefully, place them in jobs when they graduate.

Given Wolff's background at Governor's State, the mayor apparently feels she is a better choice to deliver a plan he considers critical to Chicago's economic future.

Former Mayor Richard M. Daley was such a big fan of Wolff's, he tried and failed to muscle her into the job of chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago, his father's pride and joy.

"I bring a lot of enthusiasm for making City Colleges a place that actually helps people be successful in education and in their careers. The connection with employers is absolutely essential. We need to be training people to go into the jobs that employers are going to be hiring for," Wolff said Thursday.

Pressed on why past efforts to boost the seven percent graduation rate have failed, Wolff said, "There may

not have been the discipline and focus over the years to define how resources need to be deployed. That's one of the things the mayor and chancellor are coming to grips with. That's what the reinvention is about. What's the mission and how do we implement it?"

After a decade of stability under the late Jim Tyree, the City Colleges have now had three board chairmen in two years. Gery Chico succeeded Tyree before stepping down to run for mayor.

Emanuel can only hope that the third time is the charm.

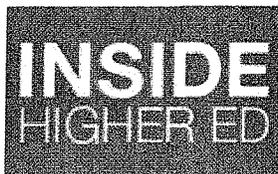
"The changes we're making at our community colleges for col-

lege-to-career are part of ensuring that we have depth and strength in our work force," the mayor said Thursday.

Emanuel said the "quality and energy" of Chicago's work force is defined, in part, by its two top-10 business schools: Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago.



Paula Wolff



(<http://www.insidehighered.com>)

## **Senate HELP committee hears college affordability testimony**

[1]

Submitted by [Mitch Smith](#) [2] on February 3, 2012 - 3:00am

WASHINGTON -- Members of the U.S. Senate's education panel got a firsthand look Thursday at the president's new higher education agenda, offering both bipartisan support and bipartisan expressions of concern.

At a hearing on college affordability before the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, lawmakers from both parties expressed agreement with President Obama's assertion that tuition growth must be curtailed to maintain access to higher education, suggesting that college pricing is likely to be an election-year priority. But Democrats and Republicans alike tried unsuccessfully to pry loose more details about the president's plan, and picked apart some aspects already made clear.

Under Secretary of Education Martha Kanter testified but divulged no secrets about Obama's Race to the Top-esque proposal for higher education, which would pay institutions that find ways to control tuition growth and increase value for students in much the same way the government rewarded states that improved their K-12 curriculums. Kanter said more information about funding for Obama's plan will be released with the president's 2013 budget proposal on Feb. 13.

While consensus emerged that college tuition can't continue to increase unabated, opinions varied about the proper role of the federal government in stunting that growth. Sen. Richard Burr, Republican of North Carolina, said the free market can help determine what tuition prices are sustainable.

"Higher education is a great example of how the market place works," he said. When tuition gets too expensive, he said, "people choose to go somewhere else." (The hearing also [featured testimony](#) [3] from officials of traditional two-year and four-year colleges talking about their efforts at innovation, and from advocates for alternatives such as Western Governors University.)

While those open-market principles are important to remember, Burr said, Congress sometimes has an important function in addressing college issues. "Where it's appropriate for us to have a role," he said, "I hope we play it."

Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski, a Maryland Democrat, pushed for brisk action and clarity about the more specific steps the administration wants legislators to take. She said students are essentially taking

out a mortgage to pay for college and aren't always seeing a return on that investment.

"They don't know whether they're going to have equity or an albatross of debt," she said. "We can't keep this going."

Wyoming Sen. Michael B. Enzi, the committee's senior Republican, said that efforts to expand grants for low-income students have failed to stop tuition growth and prove that legislation can accomplish only so much.

"If we've learned anything in recent years," he said, "it's that the government cannot solve this problem."

But Obama says that government-supported reform is imperative [4]. He introduced his agenda during last month's State of the Union address, telling colleges they were "on notice" [5] and that they risked losing taxpayer support if they couldn't control their costs and increase their educational value.

Perhaps sensing a popular cause to champion with an election looming, senators in both parties seemed eager to continue discussions on how to hold down college prices. Committee Chairman Tom Harkin, Democrat of Iowa, promised more discussion on the subject.

"This," he said, "is the first of many hearings."

### The Obama Plan [6]

**Source URL:** <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2012/02/03/senate-help-committee-hears-college-affordability-testimony>

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