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Health outcomes latest field of study

UICOMP will research impact of policies from health care reform

By PAM ADAMS (padams@pjstar.com)
of the Journal Star
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PEORIA — Along with the $13 million cancer research center scheduled to open in the fall, the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria is starting a new center to analyze health outcomes.

Carl Asche, a health economist at the University of Utah, will come to Peoria on Aug. 16 to begin developing the center, Dr. Sara Rusch, regional dean of UICOMP, said after a Kiwanis Club of Peoria meeting Wednesday at the Lariat Club.

Rusch spoke to the group about the medical school's history, accomplishments and future.

Research at the center for health outcomes may not sound as fascinating as cancer research, but it will be key to measuring the impact of health care reform.

"Nobody knows what it will be, but it will be different," Rusch said of a reformed health care system. "But will we get better results as we redesign the health system?"

Asche will work with the hospitals to assess and analyze the results of different health improvement projects, she said.

For example, if co-pays are lowered for a certain kind of heart medication, will more people fill their prescriptions? And will more filled prescriptions result in fewer heart attacks, thus lowering overall health care costs.

Rusch gave an overview of the medical school's successful collaborations with the local health care community since it started 40 years ago in the old First National Bank Building with a single secretary. The college of medicine's current, tangible accomplishments include the new psychiatric residency program, the cancer research center, and the $25 million Jump Trading Simulation and Education Center at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, which will train medical students and staff using mannequins or actors posing as patients.

"The setting will feel like it's real but training can be done without risk to patients," Rusch said.

She also elaborated the college of medicine's less visible benefits to the Peoria area. More than 61 percent of the primary care providers at St. Francis and Methodist Medical Center trained in one of the school's residency programs. The college enhances local hospitals' ability to recruit because physicians want an opportunity to teach. In fact, most of faculty members volunteer their time.

"Of about 1,055 faculty, we only pay about 247," she said.

But that also presents the possibility of future challenges. With state funding in decline and more budget cuts expected, the college "remains dependent on the good will and fiscal health of local hospitals," Rusch added.

Younger generations of physicians may not be as willing to be volunteer teachers. And though Methodist has assured her their relationship will not change once the hospital gives up its independent status to become an affiliate of Iowa Health Systems, "that's a variable you have to keep an eye on."

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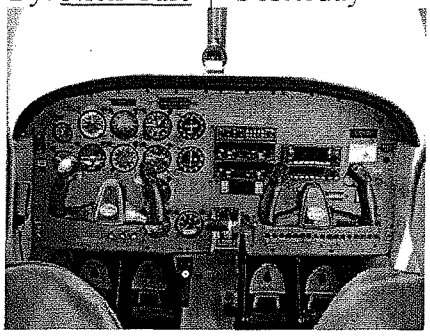
Quinn: Higher education budget this year is fair

By: Nick Gale | Yesterday



Students learn to operate two different brands of GPS units. The program has 30 airplanes in the training fleet. (Photo courtesy the University of Illinois Aviation Program)

Gov. Pat Quinn says the University of Illinois knows about a state plan that would pay the school what it's owed.

After the University of Illinois cut the aviation program, with trustees suggesting that the program may have had a longer life if the state paid its bills, Gov. Pat Quinn says the board used their conscience when making the cut. He says public universities should back a plan to restructure debt in order to pay off bills.

At that same board meeting, some trustees also said they feared the aviation program was just the first program on the chopping block. With the state's fiscal outlook dismal, trustees believe there may be more sacrifices to come.

Quinn says schools are well funded this year. "I think our budget this year for higher education was a very fair one," Quinn said. "The General Assembly appropriated money, actually a generous amount of money, for our higher education institutions and I did not change that."

Still Quinn acknowledged that finding proper funding for schools is a never-ending battle, and while the state may say schools are fully funded, many have yet to see the checks.

New UIS athletic director is on the job

Posted by Marcia Martinez

Yesterday was the first day on the job for recently-hired University of Illinois Springfield Prairie Stars athletic director Kim Pate.

She took over as acting athletics director Tuesday. On Aug. 16, she'll drop the word acting from her job title.

When UIS announced Pate as the school's new athletic director earlier this month, she was eager to assess the athletic department. She has no choice but to hit the ground running since fall sports teams begin practicing in a little over two weeks.

Pate, 36, left NCAA Division II Brevard College in North Carolina where she was athletic director for UIS. She replaces Rodger Jehlicka. Pate brings experience in both business and athletics to her new post.

She proved herself at Brevard, now she has an opportunity to do the same at UIS.

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Chicago Tribune
July 28, 2011

CSU officials to face enrollment questions

Lawmaker wants to know why students weren't dismissed

By Jodi S. Cohen
Tribune reporter

Chicago State University officials will be asked at a state hearing next month to explain how they'll ensure that their enrollment and retention numbers won't be inflated with failing students.

Sen. Edward Maloney, D-Chicago, chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee, said this week that he will question officials at the South Side public university about why they intentionally let failing students remain enrolled, an issue reported by the Tribune on Tuesday.

Chicago State has a policy that students with a grade-point average below 1.8 will be dismissed "for poor scholarship," but records obtained by the newspaper show students were allowed to continue registering for classes with GPAs as low as zero. Meanwhile, President Wayne Watson was touting increased retention and graduation rates as evidence that the institution was improving after years marked by widespread financial mismanagement, scathing audits and a failure to graduate students.

Watson, who took over in 2009, said he believes the practice started in 2007 as an intentional effort to boost the figures and then continued without the knowledge of campus leaders.

He acknowledged that enrollment and retention numbers were slightly inflated as a result and said he ended the practice as soon as he learned about it in the spring.

Maloney said he is upset that it was going on and that students may have been receiving state and federal funds when they shouldn't have been in class.

"The affordability issue is becoming critical in this state," he said. "That is the tragedy of this situation. There are students who could be using the money more effectively toward graduation, toward their degree."

He said he is going to ask CSU officials about their plans to fix the problems and "then we should put in some timetable to judge the results."

The original purpose of the Aug. 10 hearing before the legislative audit commission was to review the university's most recent audit, which uncovered 41 problems from July 2009 to June 2010, including a failure to send tuition bills to students for several months.

"Between the audit findings and these other issues, it is going to take a massive effort here. You are almost starting over," Maloney said. He said Watson "is trying to do something, but the task is monumental."

Continued

Martha J. Kanter, U.S. undersecretary of education, said she hopes the incident was isolated.

"Hopefully they've fixed it, but it is about accountability," she said at an event in Tinley Park on Wednesday. "No one should be using state or federal funds for reasons for which they would not apply, so I was happy to read that the president had delved into it, that the problem has been addressed. I think there's some investigations going on, and we're looking forward to their positive outcomes."

Watson has said that it is taking time to root out all the problems and that he is often floored by what he discovers.

The school dismissed 298 undergraduates at the end of the spring term, the same time the Tribune began asking for data on student grades.

Ce Cole Dillon, the university's chief information officer, said failing students were not intentionally kept on the rolls.

"There is nothing wrong with finding ways to increase enrollment," she said. "What we can't do is cheat to do it. What we won't do is cheat to do it."

Tribune reporter Ashley Rueff contributed.

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Indiana Daily Student - IDSnews.com

IU President Michael McRobbie gets pay raise for 2011-12 academic year

By Jake New | IDS | July 27, 2011

IU President Michael McRobbie will receive a salary of $533,120 for the 2011-12 school year, according to the University's annual salary report. The new amount is a 12 percent increase over the $476,000 McRobbie made last year.

"This puts him right in the middle of the Big Ten as far as president's salaries go," IU spokesman Mark Land said.

IU faculty and staff will also see a pay raise this upcoming year, albeit one of only 1.5 to 3 percent. The IU Board of Trustees approved the raise, which is to be merit-based, in June.

A month earlier, the trustees approved a 5.5 percent raise in tuition and fees for resident students at IU Bloomington, as well as a 6.7 percent raise for nonresident students.

Tuition also increased at IU-Purdue University Indianapolis and across IU's regional campuses. This will result in an allotted $12.9 million for maintenance and improvement projects on all IU campuses, the trustees said.

IU has a current maintenance backlog of more than $600 million.

News of the raise has not gone without criticism.

The local chapter of Communication Workers of America, which represents 1,700 support staff at IU Bloomington and IU Northwest, called the increase "frustrating."

Chapter President Bryce Smedley said the 1.5 percent raise the support staff is earning does not match inflation, and some staff members are having trouble paying the bills. Others, he said, are even facing layoffs.

"We were told there's no money, that this is not the time for raises," Smedley said. "It was a hard pill to swallow, but we made that sacrifice. So to hear this is upsetting."

Smedley said McRobbie should stand in solidarity with his employees.

"If we are to sacrifice as a team and as a community, we need leaders that lead by example," he said.

But IU Board of Trustees chair William Cast said even with the current financial strain, the raise is a necessary one.

IU is an American Association of Universities research university, of which there are only 59 in North America. In the coming months, around 30 of those are going to be looking for people in McRobbie's position, Cast said, as many presidents are nearing retirement.

"The headhunters aren't going to go after people who are untried," he said. "They are going to go after someone who has shown he can handle a university like this."

It's important to keep McRobbie around not only because of the job he's doing, Cast said, but also because of the hassle that can be caused by turnover if McRobbie was lured away.

In the past decade, IU has had three presidents, including McRobbie. With a change in president comes a change in staff and programs.

"You talk to people from the last seven to eight years who have gone through those changes, you'll see there's a very high cost to turnover like that," Cast said.

Additionally, presidential salaries in the Big Ten are increasingly competitive. While Purdue University President France Córdova, who is not receiving a raise this year, earns $431,000, many presidents in the conference make considerably more than McRobbie.

The annual cost of employment for Ohio State University's E. Gordon Gee is more than $1.8 million, making him the highest paid public university president in the country.

Graham Spanier of Pennsylvania State University also earns more than the IU president with an annual salary of $800,592, as does University of Michigan's Mary Sue Coleman, who earns $783,850, and University of Illinois President Michael Hogan, who earns $620,000.

"There's a high demand for people in his position," Cast said.

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USA TODAY

Colleges boost student fees to fill gaps in state funding

Colleges are tacking on mandatory student fees at a time when state funding is dwindling and public universities are trying to hold the line on tuition.

Mark R. Sullivan, APMike Holland, president of union Local 888 and a carpenter for Rutgers University, participates in a rally July 14 ahead of University's Board of Governors approving an increase in student tuition.Enlarge

By Mark R. Sullivan, AP

Mike Holland, president of union Local 888 and a carpenter for Rutgers University, participates in a rally July 14 ahead of University's Board of Governors approving an increase in student tuition.

Indiana University-Bloomington is adding a $180 "temporary repair and maintenance fee" this fall; next year it doubles. Freshmen and transfer students this fall at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale will be charged a one-time $150 "matriculation fee" for orientation costs. Students at Georgia's public universities will pay 3% more in tuition, but with fees the increase jumps to an average 9% more than last year. The rise is driven primarily by a "special institutional fee" that will cost as much as $1,088 next year for some students. For Georgia Tech freshmen, all fees total $2,370 — about a quarter of the total charge, $9,652.

The special fee, a temporary measure to help make up for budget shortfalls, "keeps the lights on. It pays the faculty. It pays for all the things that tuition pays," University System of Georgia spokesman John Millsaps says.

A USA TODAY analysis last year of athletics fees found that many NCAA Division I schools don't itemize what student fees pay for. Lawmakers in several states are demanding transparency.

Colorado, where a 2010 audit of public universities found "some fees may be higher than necessary," enacted a law this summer making it easier for students to question proposed charges. Between 2006 and 2010, fees in Colorado rose 142% vs. 69% for

tuition, auditors found.

New Jersey state Sen. Joe Kyrillos, a Republican who was incensed this spring that star Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi was paid $32,000 in student activity fees to speak at Rutgers University, proposes that state schools be required to detail on tuition bills h ow fees are allocated.

Beginning next month, North Dakota state universities must publish an online breakdown of how mandatory fees are spent. Legislators also have ordered a study of how fees are determined, identified and justified.

"A big part of planning for college (is) knowing how much things are going to cost," says Emily McLain, executive director of the Oregon Student Association. As a student in 2007, she and other students worked with state legislators to force the state university system to phase out a laundry list of fees by this fall. Many fees had been added more than a decade ago to get around a state-imposed tuition freeze and budget cuts, says Jay Kenton, a system vice chancellor.

For some Georgia students, there's a double whammy: Not only have legislators cut funding to universities, but they're also scaling back merit scholarships. Starting this fall, they won't cover fees.

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INSIDE HIGHER ED, July 28, 2011

In 3 States, Criticism of Presidential Pay

Amid signs that some public universities are ending a period of restraint on presidential pay, political leaders and higher education employees are criticizing salary levels in three states this week:

- In California, Governor Jerry Brown told *The Los Angeles Times* that public university systems were selecting "hired guns" from across the country to lead campuses, instead of nurturing local talent that would take on the jobs for lower salaries. Brown's comments come amid continued criticism of the $400,000 salary for the new president of San Diego State University, $100,000 more than his predecessor earned. "I believe on the campuses now there are many people who don't make near that salary that should have been groomed for leadership," Brown said.
- In Indiana, an editorial in *The Journal Gazette* questioned a 12 percent raise for Indiana University President Michael McRobbie (bringing pay to $533,000), and a campus union called for his raise not to exceed the 1.5 percent raises that its members are receiving. University board members say that they want McRobbie's pay level to be at least in the middle of those offered by Big 10 institutions. The *Journal Gazette*'s reply: "[B]onuses and six-figure salaries are disheartening to taxpayers facing smaller paychecks or, worse yet, no paycheck at all. The argument that a public official has cut costs, raised capital or could be lured by higher pay elsewhere is a tough one to make when so many workers are grateful to have even a low-paying job."
- In Vermont, faculty leaders at the University of Vermont are criticizing the salary ($27,000 a month) that Daniel Fogel will receive on the 17 month leave he is taking as he departs the presidency, Vermont Public Radio reported. Board leaders have said that the pay is justified, given Fogel's successes as president. Faculty leaders said that the compensation level is inappropriate in a time of tight budgets.