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UI reviewing policies on sex abuse reporting

Fri, 12/02/2011 - 10:07am | The News-Gazette

SPRINGFIELD — The **University of Illinois** is reviewing its policies on reporting of sexual abuse cases in light of the recent scandal at Penn State University.

President Michael Hogan said today that he had appointed a small task force, led by University Counsel Tom Bearrows, to inventory the UI's policies, processes, training and educational programs relating to sexual abuse reports.

He's also asking the UI Office of Human Resources to initiate mandatory sexual harassment training for all UI employees.

Hogan directed the panel first to prepare a letter to the university community reaffirming the UI's commitment to "the safety and well-being of all members of our community and visitors to our campuses." The letter, he said, should also emphasize that laws apply to everyone "irrespective of position or level"; that anyone who witnesses sexual abuse or other crimes or misconduct must report the incident to appropriate legal officials, university superiors, administrators and/or the UI's ethics officer; and that people who report such incidents will be protected from retaliation.

The task force will also compile an inventory of state and federal laws and university policies on child sex abuse and other crimes or misconduct, and develop an inventory of potential cases where background checks might be appropriate, such as job applicants or anyone with access to university facilities.

The panel will determine whether the policies are "adequate and consistent" and whether faculty and staff are educated about their responsibilities under the law.

Finally, the task force will identify "special situations that merit extra attention and oversight," such as youth sports camps, summer music camps and 4-H activities, and recommend ways to inform the public about steps the UI is taking to protect children in those settings.

Hogan said he initiated the review immediately after the Penn State cases came to light, and board Chairman Chris Kennedy "almost simultaneously" requested similar action.

The task force includes Maureen Parks, executive director of human resources, and Donna McNeely, executive director of the UI ethics office.

www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-il-uofillinois-abuse,0,6543500.story

chicagotribune.com

U of Illinois reviewing sex abuse policies

Associated Press

6:30 AM CST, December 2, 2011

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.

The **University of Illinois** is reviewing the policies and educational programs on its three campuses that relate to the prevention of sexual abuse.

University President Michael Hogan said Friday that he created a task force to begin the review after allegations of sexual abuse by an assistant football coach at Penn State University. An assistant basketball coach at Syracuse faces similar accusations.

At a university trustees meeting in Springfield, Hogan said the task force will determine whether existing policies and procedures are adequate. He says all university employees will be given training on the prevention of sexual harassment, too.

Hogan says the group will also put together a list of situations such as youth camps held on the campuses that need extra attention or special oversight.

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The Daily Illini

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Current Date: Fri, 02 Dec 2011 10:32:40 -0600

University to investigate sex abuse laws in light of Penn State scandal

The University has formed a task force to look into its policies and procedures regarding sexual abuse in light of the Penn State scandal, University President Michael Hogan announced during his remarks at the Board of Trustees meeting Friday morning.

The task force will conduct its examination through a series of phases. It will first prepare a letter or another form of communication to the University community reiterating the fact that "laws and policies apply to all members of our community, irrespective of position or level," Hogan told the board.

Hogan's message will also emphasize that members of the University community who witness sexual abuse, criminal behavior or misconduct are required to report the incident to appropriate legal officials, as well as University supervisors and administrators.

The University will also examine federal, state and University laws and procedures regarding not only child sex abuse, but other forms of misconduct. During this process, the task force will review situations where background checks are conducted.

In addition, Hogan is asking the executive director of Human Resources, Maureen Parks, to mandate sexual harassment training for all University employees. There will also be a special emphasis placed on youth sports camps and summer music camp and developing "appropriate communications to inform the

public of the steps we are taking to provide additional safeguards in these settings," Hogan said.

"All of us are saddened and shocked by the tragic news from Penn State, regarding the handling of sexual abuse reports dating back several years," he said.

Hogan thanked board chairman Christopher Kennedy and the trustees in their interest in how the University is prepared to prevent similar situations.

After the allegations of child sex abuse surfaced, Hogan scheduled a cabinet meeting in order to look at the different procedures of reporting such instances. In addition, Kennedy asked Hogan to conduct an examination and report back to the board at a future meeting.

"“(This should be) an overreaching mandate to protect kids,” Kennedy said. “That should be a simple message.”

The task force will be led by the University’s General Counsel, Tom Bearrows, and will include officials from Human Resources and the Office of the Ethics.

The Penn State scandal forced their trustees to fire university president Graham Spanier and head football coach Joe Paterno after allegations that both knew about the sexual abuse and did not report it. Just days before the termination of the two, former defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky was arrested on charges of molesting eight boys over 15 years, which are detailed in a 23-page grand jury indictment that lists 40 charges, taking place from 1994 to 2008.

Since then, more victims have come forward.

UI trustees to consider renovation to Natural History Building

Thu, 12/01/2011 - 1:00pm | [Christine Des Garennes](#) ^[1], staff writer, *The News-Gazette* ^[2]

URBANA — A **University of Illinois** building partially shuttered for a year and a half because of structural problems is next in line for a major facelift.

Campus officials have proposed a \$70 million renovation of the Natural History Building, 1301 W. Green St., home to the School of Earth, Society and Environment, and the School of Integrative Biology, both in the UI's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

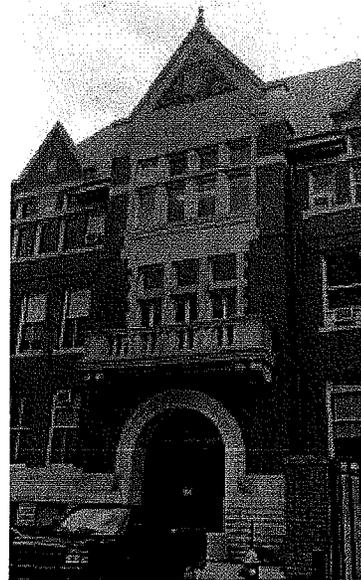
Much of the building was closed in the summer of 2010 after engineers determined some of the floors were structurally insufficient. Since then the university and Champaign firm BLDD Architects have come up with conceptual plans for a renovation of the building's classrooms, laboratories and offices as well as an update of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems.

The UI Board of Trustees will meet Friday in Springfield to consider a number of action items, including the proposed renovation of the building.

For several years the university requested money for the Natural History Building from the state, but now officials propose to pay for it with a combination of student fees, university institutional funds and donations.

"This building was in such a state of disrepair, it's almost unusable," campus spokeswoman Robin Kaler said. University officials still hope the state will be able to contribute some money for the project, but "we simply can't wait any longer," she said.

After 40 percent of the building closed in 2010, many offices were combined and some moved to other places on campus, said geology Professor Steven Marshak, director of the School of Earth, Society and Environment. Some labs were relocated to other buildings or other portions of the Natural History Building. Staff, for example, moved the mass spectrometry lab to another portion of the building. Doing so was no small feat. The move



^[3]

Photo by: Darrell Hoemann/*The News-Gazette*
The west side of the Natural History Building on the UI campus.

required bringing in a specialist from Scotland, moving and calibrating the spectrometer and updating the room's electrical and ventilation systems.

"The problem with this building is it's a hodgepodge of components pieced together at different times: (in) 1892, 1908 and 1924," Marshak said.

All those portions were built before modern laboratory science had been established, he said, and as a result the building does not have features, such as constant air control, needed for modern laboratories.

In recent months administrators drafted a funding plan for the \$70 million renovation project: \$18 million is expected to be raised from the deferred maintenance fee that students pay; \$20 million from funds set aside from the Stewarding Excellence and other ongoing cost-savings programs on campus; \$10 million from facility reserves; \$4 million in energy conservation reserves; and \$7 million in donor funds.

"We're still working on securing the additional \$11 million," Kaler said.

The building, just east of the Illini Union, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building's floor space totals about 148,000 square feet and the building's footprint won't change with the renovation, Kaler said.

"It's a really major renovation. We're looking forward to the change," Marshak said.

Faculty, students and staff will face some challenges in the coming years as they will have to move temporarily to other buildings, "but when we return (to the renovated building), it will all seem worth it. It will help with our ability to recruit students and faculty," Marshak said.

In addition to approving the project's budget, the board on Friday will be asked to continue to employ BLDD Architects of Champaign to manage the construction documents, bidding process, construction administration and post construction management. In return the firm will receive a fee of \$2.8 million, for a total of approximately \$3.2 million including previous work done on the project.

The building project's design is anticipated to be complete by January 2013 and the project itself is expected to be finished by fall 2015.

Also at the Friday board meeting, members will likely approve the appointment of Susan Kies to the post of board secretary, replacing Michele Thompson who is retiring. Trustees also are set to approve the appointment of Robert Easter as interim vice chancellor for research, replacing Ravi Iyer, who is returning to faculty. Easter was most recently the interim chancellor.

The board's meeting will be webcast online at <http://www.uis.edu/technology/uislive.html> [4]. It is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m.

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NEWSBRIEF

Get free dental screening at UIC

December 1, 2011

Dental students at the **University of Illinois at Chicago** College of Dentistry will provide free limited dental screenings on four upcoming Saturdays to adults age 18 and older. Screenings include an examination and, if a faculty member determines they are necessary, free X rays as well.

Students must perform a certain number of screenings to meet their dental licensure examination requirements and are eager to see existing and new patients. No appointment necessary on the designated dates; just show up.

Dates are the Saturdays of Dec. 3, Jan. 7 and 21, and Feb. 4 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The college is located at 801 S. Paulina St.

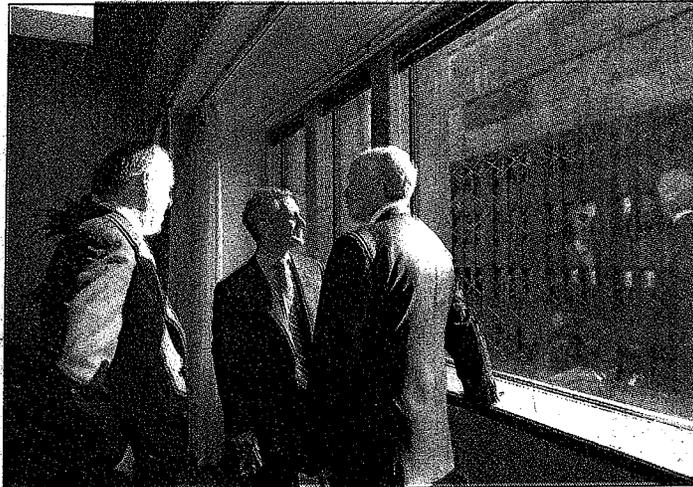
Northwestern touts jobs in expansion

BY MARY ELLEN PODMOLIK
Tribune reporter

Northwestern Memorial HealthCare plans to add more than 950 permanent jobs at its Streeterville medical campus in Chicago if it gets the final approvals to begin construction of an outpatient care pavilion that would open in 2014.

The potential jobs, which include 650 new hires and 300 jobs relocated from elsewhere in the Chicago area, would be in addition to 700 construction jobs tied to the \$334 million project, a 1 million-square-foot facility at Erie Street and Fairbanks Court.

The project, which requires city and state approvals, is the latest indication of a transformation under way as the health care industry prepares for a changing cost structure and regulatory environment. The hospital also is adapting for the coming onslaught of consumers who need more health services: The first of the baby boomers turned age 65 in January, and some 10,000 of them a



Ald. Brendan Reilly, from left, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Northwestern CEO Dean M. Harrison check out the site Thursday.

day are expected to hit that milestone for the next 19 years. As they age, they need more medical attention.

As a result, the health care industry here and elsewhere is modernizing its facilities and adding workers. In June, Elmhurst Memorial Hospital relocated to a new facility. Early next month, Rush University

Medical Center opens a 14-story, \$654 million hospital tower in Chicago. And in February, Silver Cross Hospital in Joliet moves to a new \$400 million facility in New Lenox.

And it is not just the facilities that are growing. The workforces are too. For instance,

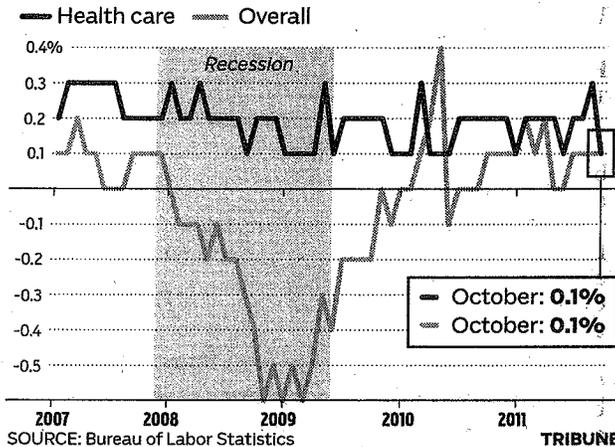
Please turn to Page 5

Health care hiring steady in tough economy

While overall employment nationally tumbled during the recession, the health care field continued to add jobs throughout that period.

National health care and overall employment

Percentage change in number of employees from previous month, seasonally adjusted



Northwestern plan touts jobs

Continued from Page 1

Rush, which employs 8,500 people on the city's West Side, will add 1,200 full-time equivalent employees to its expanded space.

Ten of the 20 fastest-growing occupations are in health care-related fields, and between 2008 and 2018 the industry is expected to generate 3.2 million new jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the 10-year span ending in 2018, the number of registered nurses is expected to grow by 20 percent, physical assistants by 32 percent and occupational therapists by 28 percent, according to state estimates.

Northwestern's project, touted Thursday by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and hospi-

tal executives, has received the backing of the Streeter-ville Organization of Active Residents and has been approved by the Chicago Plan Commission. It still must be approved by the city's Zoning Committee and the City Council. Also, the project is expected to go before the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board next spring for a certificate of approval.

In addition to therapeutic and diagnostic facilities, the pavilion also would include doctors' offices, 575 parking spaces and a retail component. To ease potential traffic concerns, the building has been designed so the loading docks are within the structure.

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December 1, 2011

New Rule Will Allow States and Agencies to Release More Student Data

By Kelly Field

Washington

The Education Department will issue a final rule today that will make it easier for states to track students' academic progress and evaluate education programs.

The rule allows state and local education officials to share student information more widely without violating federal privacy law. It also makes lenders, guarantors, and other agencies with access to student records subject to the law, known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, or Ferpa.

Supporters say the changes will help researchers measure the effectiveness of government-financed education programs. They say Ferpa has hampered such research because states and schools have been unsure about what information they can legally share.

But privacy advocates say the rule undermines longstanding student protections. They expressed disappointment that the department did not adopt many of their proposed changes to its draft rule, which came out in April.

"The department has regrettably decided to go down the path of a data free-for-all in the name of accountability," said Barmak Nassirian, an associate executive director of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

In a statement, the Education Department said the new rules would strengthen its enforcement powers, helping the department "hold those who misuse or abuse student information accountable." It is also publishing guidance on protecting student privacy under the new rules.

Summoned to the White House

December 2, 2011 - 3:00am

By

Libby A. Nelson

WASHINGTON -- President Obama has invited the presidents of about 10 colleges and universities to a meeting at the White House on Monday to discuss affordability and productivity in higher education. While many White House events feature various presidents of colleges, a private meeting -- called on short notice, with the president himself in attendance -- is highly unusual.

The meeting, described as a roundtable discussion, will include Obama, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, White House advisers, and a small group of college presidents and "thought leaders" in higher education, according to an invitation sent by the White House. A list of those invited has not been released.

Amid an increasing focus on student debt and college prices, the event seems to signal that the Obama administration will make the issue a focus going into the 2012 campaign. In a speech Monday, Education Secretary Arne Duncan called on colleges to address rising tuition prices "with much greater urgency." The House of Representatives held a subcommittee hearing Tuesday on rising costs, discussing a broad range of possible solutions.

The White House event seems to go beyond the issue of price alone: in the invitation, Melody Barnes, director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, said the discussion would focus on increasing access and success as well as how to make higher education more affordable. The presidents will be asked for their perspectives on increasing productivity, access and attainment, as well as how to create change at colleges and universities.

But price is an overarching concern. "The cost of college has nearly tripled over the past three decades, forcing students to take out more loans and rack up more debt in pursuit of the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in a twenty-first century economy," Barnes wrote in the invitation.

"Our Administration seeks to engage and explore constructive solutions designed to bring down overall campus costs in an effort to make college more affordable for everyone."

Read more: <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/12/02/obama-invites-college-presidents-meeting#ixzz1fNzsApfP>

Inside Higher Ed

Dec 01, 2011

Feds probe \$4.5 billion college licensing industry

By Michael McCarthy, USA
TODAY

Updated 14h ago

The U.S. Department of Justice has opened a probe into the \$4.5 billion college licensing business, according to the industry's biggest player.

IMG's College Licensing Company (CLC) division said Wednesday it is "cooperating" with the DOJ inquiry. The DOJ declined to comment Wednesday night.



CAPTION

By Terry Gilliam. AP Photo

Cory Moss, senior vice president and managing director of CLC, said the feds have "opened a preliminary inquiry in how colleges and universities select which companies they license and how they determine their royalty rates."

The DOJ didn't tell them "much," said Moss. But CLC will "fully cooperate" with the investigation. "We're actually extremely eager to cooperate," he said.

Sales of licensed college t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and other gear generate billions at retail outlets each year. The lucrative licensing business keeps growing.

IMG's CLC is the biggest player in the business, representing over 200 collegiate properties including Alabama, Auburn, Texas, Florida, Tennessee, Michigan and UCLA. CLC works with over 3,000 licensees nationwide that manufacture licensed college apparel, souvenirs and video games, according to Moss.

Moss said the federal probe could be related to a letter sent by a Washington, D.C., law firm to IMG College and 27 Football Bowl Subdivision schools this spring demanding they stop what the law firm alleged is a "concerted effort" to limit the number of manufacturers that are licensed to make collegiate apparel items.

Attorney Steven G. Bradbury of Dechert LLP declined to identify who his firm is representing. But in his five-page cease-and-desist letter on June 9, he wrote he represents "various stakeholders who share a common interest in preserving competition and choice in the supply of licensed collegiate merchandise."

Bradbury declined comment Wednesday night.

Charter schools under the microscope

As with traditional public schools, those that don't raise achievement should be reconstituted or closed

More than 14,000 students fill charter school waiting lists in Chicago. The biggest reason for that: Parents believe their kids will gain a better education at those schools.

The best charters help kids to excel. They narrow the pernicious achievement gap between white and minority students. They post impressive graduation rates and help more students attend college. They chuck out the rules of traditional schools, and they draw gifted teachers and give them the incentive ... to ... go ... *teach*. No wonder there's a waiting list.

But not every charter leaves the nearest neighborhood school in the dust. The Illinois State Board of Education this week released its first campus-by-campus charter report card. It's sobering. It shows what a lot of school experts have been saying for some time: Many charter schools are fabulous places for kids to learn, but some are not delivering.

The students at some charter schools in Chicago — including some run by the more prominent national and local charter school networks — haven't reached the citywide average for achievement on standardized tests. The list includes some schools run by the United Neighborhood Organization, Chicago International Charter Schools, and the University of Chicago, considered to be among the best charter operators in the nation. (Note that the citywide

average includes Chicago's elite selective-enrollment schools.)

We're huge fans of charter schools. We want to see more of the best charter school operators come to Chicago.

But the schools and the operators have to prove their worth. They don't get a pass because they have the golden name "charter." If some don't raise the educational achievement of Chicago's children, they should be reconstituted or closed. Make room for new schools, new operators, new ideas.

Chicago Public Schools CEO Jean-Claude Brizard said Wednesday that CPS will force major changes at two underperforming charter schools, changes that ultimately could lead to closing them. A third, Chicago International Charter Schools' Basil elementary campus, will go into turnaround. That's a last-ditch option, short of closing, in which CPS replaces school leadership and staff and revamps curriculum. That suggests CPS leaders understand that charters must be held to the highest performance standards.

Now, Andrew Broy, head of the Illinois Network of Charter Schools, warns about the limitations of the state charter data.

He argues that charters should be judged not on a single standardized test score, but on the *trajectory* of student growth over time. Broy says that 17 of 26 Chicago charter high schools showed

better growth in student achievement this year than the average traditional high school.

That's great news for students and parents in those 17 schools. Students and parents in the other nine schools ought to be asking a lot of questions.

Chicago has been a leader in urban school reform. That's largely because of its charter school networks and the organizations that recruit and train strong teachers and principals and rigorously assess what's working and what's not in this city's schools. Thanks to all of them.

Meanwhile, CPS announced that four dismally performing Chicago elementary and high schools will be closed or begin to be phased out, and 10 schools will be reconstituted.

That news always sparks controversy, but that kind of dramatic change is necessary. CPS says 123,000 students attend underperforming schools, nearly one in three students.

Brizard hopes to blunt some of the emotion, controversy and disruption by improving surrounding schools, so there are better alternatives for students if their schools are closed.

We like his sense of urgency. Chicago has to keep all of its schools, traditional, charter, other alternative schools, under the microscope. A student gets one chance, only a few years, to learn. Let's make those years count at every school.

SPOTLIGHT DRUM MAJOR'S DEATH

Hazing case prompts reassessment; 4 students dismissed

Florida's governor seeks review of universities' harassment policies

Four students were dismissed from Florida A&M University amid fallout from the suspected hazing-related death of a band drum major, the university said Thursday.

The dismissal of the four was disclosed in a letter Tuesday from university President James Ammons to the school's board of trustees.



Florida A&M's Robert Champion died after a football game.

Authorities have not specified what caused 26-year-old drum major Robert Champion's death after a Nov. 19 football game

performance with the school's Marching 100 band, but officials have said hazing was involved. That has ignited a firestorm of criticism surrounding university practices.

Ammons' letter said 30 students were dismissed from the band before the game, but no reason was given.

On Thursday, Florida Gov. Rick Scott called for a review of state universities' hazing and harassment policies.

In a letter to the chancellor of the state university system, Scott

said "hazing should be strictly condemned on our college and university campuses and by any organization associated directly or indirectly with our institutions."

Several speakers at Champion's funeral Wednesday in Decatur, Ga., described him as a kind person and a strong leader who was dedicated to achieving his goals.

Champion became ill at an Orlando, Fla., hotel after performing at the game. He reportedly vomited in the parking lot and complained of not being able to

breathe, authorities said.

Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings said hazing was involved in the incident but added that authorities were trying to determine an official cause of death.

After Champion's death, Ammons suspended all band performances and said he would convene a task force "to determine if there are any unauthorized and questionable activities associated with the culture of the Marching 100."

— CNN