

ACI Board of Trustees Approve Budget, Business Plan, Reappointments

April 29, 2022



The ACI Board of Trustees convened for ACI's Annual Meeting April 22 in Chicago.

The [ACI Board of Trustees](#) approved a \$1.4 million expense budget for the organization's new fiscal year to begin June 1. The trustees also approved a business plan for the upcoming fiscal year and reappointed several board members.

The board reappointed 12 corporate members to two-year terms, and reappointed President Gene C. Crume, Jr., [Judson University](#), for a two-year term on the ACI Executive

Committee. In addition, board member Barry C. Mastin Jr., Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., will assume the role of chair of the ACI Trusteeship Committee, succeeding longtime chair Jerry Murphy, retired, who will remain on the board and committee, said Mick Weltman, ACI executive director. Pawel Szeliski, Kutchins, Robbins & Diamond, Ltd., will become vice chair, he said. Also, Debora L. Osgood, Hogan Marren Babbo & Rose, Ltd., will step away from her role as Program Committee chair. A successor will be named soon, Weltman said.

The business plan addresses ACI's efforts in advancement, including its annual fundraising event, plus grants, corporate and individual giving. It also addresses college-to-career programs, peer mentoring, scholarships and emergency funds, professional development conferences and ACI's communications.

The business plan includes a slight increase to 115 percent of return-on-investment to member schools, in response to assessments they invest to fund ACI's operations, Weltman said. He also reported an anticipated budget surplus of about \$26,000 in the current fiscal year.

Board members comment on anticipated financial returns, ACI initiatives

"It is encouraging to have 115 percent," said President Philip G. Ryken of [Wheaton College](#), an ACI member. He also thanked corporate board members for their service to ACI. "Hopefully this work is satisfying for you, and you have an opportunity to give to our state, to give to our community and to higher education. We don't take it for granted. We really appreciate it. Thank you," he added.

During an open discussion, James L. Applegate, Illinois State University, and chair of the ACI Communications Committee, suggested board members study [ACI's Member Employment Data](#). "It is an eye-opener. It is really quite stunning. Go look at the numbers in that study. Every employer in Illinois should value these colleges," he said.

Rob Johnson, Rob Johnson Communications and ACI board member, asked his colleagues to think of themselves and the organization as "thought leaders." "It's more than just sharing a link to something that we did," he said. "It's for you all to feel like that you're invested in this, too. If we're going to go to the next level, we need to be thought leaders." Among other things, the organization should produce a live event once a quarter for the business community, to highlight ACI's contributions and relevance to higher education and workforce development, Johnson added.