AGENDA
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE
Wednesday, August 31, 2016
10:00 a.m.
President’s House
711 W. Florida Avenue, Urbana

I. Meeting with President Killeen

(The meeting will break from 12-1pm for lunch.)

II. Remarks from the USC Chair

III. USC Committee Meetings

IV. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of June 22, 2016
    Approval of University Senates Conference Organizational Minutes of June 22, 2016

V. Classification of Senate Minutes

None.

Explanation of File Numbers

ST - University of Illinois Statutes
GR - The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure
NC - Nominating Committee
OT - All Other Items

VI. Old Business - Action Items

None.

VII. New Business

1. OT-336. USC 2016 Retreat.

   The Conference will discuss plans and topics for the retreat and meeting to be held in September.

VIII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

2. OT-326. USC Presentations to the Board of Trustees.

   The next presentation will be the new USC Chair’s report on September 8. There will be a discussion regarding the direction of USC this academic year.


(Items 3-5) The Conference has advocated sending the changes to the Statutes where there are no concerns to the Board of Trustees.


The UIS Senate approved the revisions proposed by UIUC on April 22. The UIC Senate had first reading on April 27 and plans to act on this item in the fall.

7. ST-82. Revisions to the Statutes, Article IX, Sections 3. (Appointments, Ranks, and Promotions of the Academic and Administrative Staff) a., and 4 (Principles Governing Employment of Academic and Administrative Staffs) b. Approved by the UIUC Senate 5/2/16. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 6/6/16.

The revisions proposed by the UIUC Senate have been transmitted to the UIC and UIS Senates.

8. OT-327. University Strategic Framework. Approved by the Board of Trustees 5/19/16.
The next steps will be discussed with President Killeen.


President Killeen has been asked to provide an update.


No new information.

11. OT-332. Levels of University Review.

Internal approval processes are often multi-level and time-consuming, resulting in a cumbersome system. Some are internal to the campuses; others occur between the campuses and upper levels of review. As we try to address procurement rules and other external constraints, are there ways to streamline our own operations in order to alleviate unnecessary burdens?

12. OT-123. University Senates Conference guests.

Discussion of guests to invite to future meetings.

13. Report of USC Observer to Board of Trustees meeting:

   Thursday, July 21, 2016 Urbana Bettina Francis

14. Designation of USC Observer to Board of Trustees meeting:

   Thursday, September 8, 2016 Urbana Harley Johnson

15. Campus Updates.

   Discussion of campus matters for information.

16. OT-142. Updates on External Groups with USC Representatives: Enrollment Management Policy Council (Jackson); Pre- and Post-Award Research Money Policy group (Wheeler); President’s Executive Leadership Program (Miller, Mohammadian); Vice President for Academic Affairs Faculty Advisory Committee (Burbules, DeBerry-Spence, Mohammadian, Villegas); Vice President for Academic Affairs UA Budget Review Advisory Committee (Mohammadian, Villegas, Wheeler); Vice President for Finance Faculty Advisory Committee (DeBerry-Spence, Weech); Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee (Boltuc, Burbules, Miller, Villegas, Wheeler).
The list will be reviewed to determine whether the groups are still active and whether there needs to be membership changes.

17. Reports from USC Committees:

   Academic Affairs and Research Committee  Meena Rao
   Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee  Harley Johnson
   Hospital and Health Affairs Committee  Mary Jo LaDu
   Statutes and Governance Committee  Nick Burbules

IX. Adjournment

The USC meeting and retreat is scheduled to be held in September.
Pending Items and Items Referred to Committee

1. OT-223. Annual Review of the Vice Presidents.

   USC will consider in the spring whether there will be a review.

2. OT-320. Salary increments and campus budgeting priorities.

   This item was referred to the USC Finance, Budget, and Benefits Committee.

3. OT-330. Approval and Consultation Processes with the University Senates Conference and the Senates.

   This item was referred to the USC Statutes and Governance Committee.

4. OT-333. Travel and Expense Management (TEM) System.

   Of particular note concerning cumbersome approval processes is the OBFS TEM System. Purportedly it is taking over 30 days for reimbursements to employees, even for those using their own grant money. The system was supposed to necessitate fewer employees in OBFS to handle travel and expense reimbursements (often by moving more of the responsibility down to the unit level), yet the reason for the delay in reimbursements is supposedly due to fewer employees in this area. Other faculty have raised concerns about the growing requirements for justification, and resultant rejection of justified reimbursements. Is it time to look into fixing this system? This item has been referred to the Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee.


   While, hopefully, the value of shared governance is not disputed, are there ways to increase efficiency and ensure that the processes of shared governance are also happening in a timely and responsive manner? This item has been referred to the Statutes and Governance Committee.

6. OT-335. Differentiating Shared Governance Responsibilities from Union Responsibilities.

   The University of Illinois has a system of shared governance through the senates and other faculty groups, with some of the processes embedded in the University Statutes and other governing documents. It is of course the decision of the faculty whether to unionize. For the two entities to coexist there should be a clear line of which responsibilities devolve to which group. Typically, for example, the shared governance process would deal with academic issues and the union process, through negotiation, would deal with salary and benefits. How can we ensure that these appropriate spheres of responsibility are respected in both directions? This item has been referred to the Statutes and Governance Committee.