

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Friday, January 13, 2023

PLACE: Videoconference

PRESENT: Burbules, Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groot (Chair), Erricolo, Fisher, Leff, Peiravian, Stroschio, Tolliver, Varden, Wink

ABSENT: Benson, Hobbs, Jenkins, Kalita, Sharma, Weuve

GUESTS: Donald Edwards, Nicholas Jones, Timothy Killeen,

Professor De Groot welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

I. President Killeen and Executive Vice President Jones, and Board of Trustees Chair Donald Edwards joining at 11:00 a.m.

President Killeen introduced Executive Vice President Nick Jones. EVP Jones discussed his background and previous positions in higher education. He indicated that his role is to support the President, support the chancellors and vice chancellors, and play a facilitating role for the three institutions through the system. He stressed that, even though he is coming from a place that is considered one university with several campuses, he understands the system concept and his role.

President Killeen discussed some of the many ways the University of Illinois System has influence with the State of Illinois. From bringing in a talented workforce to addressing healthcare and educational disparities, the state is recognizing our contributions. The system's contributions to addressing Covid-19 showed how we can be a valuable resource to the state. The President commented that the U of I System will no longer require testing for those who are unvaccinated.

President Killeen provided an update on the search to fill the position of Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

Tuition has been frozen six of the last eight years. President Killeen said that the system experienced sticker shock in previous years. He commented that healthy shared governance drove the system to reconsider tuition increases, and this has led to an increased competitive position. EVP Jones discussed the tuition recommendation that will go to the Board later this month.

President Killeen reported that the system's bond rating increased to AA1. We were successful in getting our procurement request approved during the veto session.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of February 16, 2023

President Killeen said that the system is improving in keeping students in Illinois. Of the students who do leave the state to attend college, only about 25% come back to Illinois. This causes the state to lose some of its tax base. The system takes DEI – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – very seriously. We particularly need to work on inclusion and being more welcoming.

Professor De Groote welcomed Chair Edwards, who commented that the Board is happy with what is happening in the system. There is strong support from the Governor for the U of I System. He added that he is happy to have EVP Nick Jones and Chancellor Marie Lynn Miranda on board.

Chair Edwards commented on some of the challenges that the system is facing. Increasing the number of underrepresented students and faculty is very important. He noted that the Board does not get involved in academics. System finances are always at the top of the list of concerns. The Board would like to see the high student-to-faculty ratio addressed. Improving faculty compensation while keeping tuition low is important but also a challenge. The U of I System is in a stronger position operationally in terms of alignment and culture than it has been in a long time. The system has been building on its reputation and excellence. There are many opportunities for faculty to work with colleagues throughout the world. He said that the Board's job is to provide a stable environment. One thing that the Board has been doing is working with the Discovery Partners Institute.

Responding to a question, Chair Edwards said that the Board would be interested in hearing about different opportunities in pedagogy during the University Senates Conference's presentations to the Board. Specifically, what is the faculty's perspective on delivering education from what we learned during Covid, and what should we be doing with online and hybrid teaching.

Chair Edwards said that it is good to hear that the system's stature and credibility are strong. The better off we are by understanding our challenges. Reflecting the community of Illinois as much as possible in our students and faculty only strengthens us. He commented that public universities are being asked to do more and more without additional compensation. The exclusive model of elite institutions leaves a lot of brilliant faculty and students behind. If we can obtain financial resources, we can benefit from including these groups. Chair Edwards reiterated his support for the faculty. He acknowledged the faculty's role in financial resources by bringing in research grants.

Chair Edwards was informed of the USC's committee structure, which mostly maps to the Board's committee structure. While many faculty would like to have a faculty seat at the table, this would require changes in state laws. Having a faculty representative on the Board's committees would not. Chair Edwards said that this issue had not been raised directly with him. President Killeen said that a faculty member from each USC committee usually attends the corresponding Board committee meeting. He added that he mentions the person's name at each meeting. Professor Burbules said that the person is more of an observer rather than a participant. The group discussed some of the benefits of such an arrangement. One area that the faculty are often in the dark about is the budget. While the budget presentations during the Board meetings are very transparent and informative, most faculty do not watch the meetings. Having stronger coordination between the Board and the faculty could lead to better

understanding by the faculty. Faculty representatives could report back to the faculty in their senates.

Chair Edwards said that the Board has prioritized the hiring of more faculty. President Killeen said that the system plans to hire 300 new faculty over the next few years. He commented that faculty appointments need to reflect a comprehensive composition of the system, and the Arts and Humanities are front and center.

Chair Edwards felt that it was important to increase faculty interactions and dialogue with the Board. He gave credit to President Killeen for making these interactions happen more often.

President Killeen said that the U of I System has signed an agreement with Mexico that would fund up to fifty Master and PhD students who would study in Mexico.

Professor De Groote thanked the guests for meeting with USC.

The meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m.

II. Business Meeting Call to Order

The business meeting began at 1:05 p.m.

III. Remarks from the USC Chair

There were no remarks from the Chair.

IV. USC Committee of the Whole Discussion – Follow-up items from morning session

Members commented on the productive morning session. Professor Tolliver was encouraged that the Board is interested in online education initiatives but recognizes that initiatives must be faculty driven. Professor Burbules hoped that USC could make progress with having the USC Committee Chairs be standing members of the Board's committees. Professor Campbell commented that it would be beneficial to have more of an outward focus on research and DPI in improving our stature within the state. Professor Danziger said that research at UIC, which is very significant, often gets left out of the news compared to the research of other Chicago institutions. Professor Varden commented that the upcoming presentation to the Board on the week in the life of the faculty would include research. She added that it would cost very little to help fund research in the Humanities, and it would be good for the system overall. Professor Weuve said that there is often a lot of advertising for big programs that already receive a lot of interest. Investing in smaller programs would be beneficial.

V. Approval of Minutes – December 8, 2022

Professor Weuve moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Burbules and approved by voice vote.

VI. Classification of Senate Minutes

There were no classifications.

VII. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

VIII. Old Business - Action Items

There was no old business for action.

IX. Today's Business

1. OT-386. University of Illinois System Policies on Conflicts of Commitment and Interest. Re-transmitted from the EVP Office 12/3/22.

USC members discussed the policy. There was concern with the vague language covering outside activities and the inclusion of those with 0% appointments being included in the policies. Professor Burbules moved to transmit the policies to the senates and ask for their input. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. Professor De Grootte said that she would ask that the senates respond before the end of the semester.

2. USC Presentation to the Board at its January 26 meeting – Chicago

Professor Burbules commented on his report concerning academic freedom.

3. Observer for the next Board of Trustees meeting:

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Chicago

Professor De Grootte

4. Future USC Presentations to the Board of Trustees

The group discussed the topics for future presentations. Professor De Grootte will present on March 30, with the topic being shared governance. Professor Varden is leading a group that will report on a week in the life of faculty at the May Board meeting. Professor De Grootte will give the USC annual report at the July Board meeting. A future presentation might also include the new realities of pedagogy – online, hybrid, and dual mode teaching. Professors Burbules, Fisher, Leff, and Sharma volunteered to serve on a group to work on such a presentation.

5. DPI Bylaws – Review of proposed revisions

Professor Wink reported that the revised bylaws were going back to the DPI Executive Committee for review.

6. DPI Membership

There was no new information.

7. System Office Taskforces

- Anti-bullying policy (Weuve)

Professor Weuve reported that the committee has met once, and follow-up meetings are being scheduled. The committee will review an initial draft that is being created.

- Background Check policy (Weuve)

Professor Weuve reported that a three-year review of the policy is being conducted. The group conducting the review has not met.

- Code of Conduct (Tolliver and Weuve)

Professor Weuve reported that much of the work on the Code was done in December. There are dramatic and positive changes being made.

8. OT-385. FOIA concerns; External Relations and Communications as guests. Transferred from 6/29/22 agenda for further discussion. Kirsten Ruby and Matt Sullard met with USC on 9/27/22. Scott Rice met with USC on 10/27/22.

Professor Burbules said that Scott Rice, Kirsten Ruby, and Matt Sullard have been asked for their input on the draft document that he and Professor Tolliver have written. Professor Tolliver added that they hope to also have input from RIMS (Records and Information Management Services) before the document comes to USC.

9. Discussion of guests to invite to future USC meetings

The group discussed guests to invite. Professor De Groote noted that the April, May, and June USC meetings are scheduled to be held in person.

10. Senates' Audit Reports

Professor De Groote said that she plans to write a letter to the senates asking whether they have responded to the issues in their audit reports, either by addressing the issues or accepting risk.

11. SURSMAC Dissolution

Professor De Groote reported that she will draft a letter to the State University Retirement System (SURS) about the dissolution of its Members Advisory Committee. The issue of concern is the manner in which SURS dissolved SURSMAC after there had been a vote not to dissolve the committee. Professor De Groote said that the draft letter will be shared with USC and then sent to SURS and the senates.

12. Evaluate Standing Items on USC agenda Items X. 8 through X. 11

- OT-381. EO Accountability. Professor Burbules moved to remove this item from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Professor Weuve and approved.
- OT-382. FBBC report back to USC re: tuition/cost of attendance. Professor Burbules moved to remove this item from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Professor Campbell and approved.
- OT-383. Experiences with senate auditors. Professor Burbules moved to remove this item from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Professor Fisher and approved.
- OT-384. Experiences with the Office of Legal Counsel. Professor Burbules moved to remove this item from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Professor Campbell and approved.

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

X. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

1. ST-83. Revisions to the *Statutes* – new proposed revisions and proposed revisions from ST-77 that need further discussion (B File). Sent to the Executive Vice President 5/1/20. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 following ST-77) transmitted to UIS, UIC, and UIUC Senates 9/2/21. UIC Senate Request for Modifications 12/1/22.

Professor Burbules reported that the statutory review group that consists of the USC Statutes and Governance Committee, the EVP, and representatives from System HR and University Counsel has met and will schedule more meetings to review the feedback from the UIC Senate. He hopes to hear back from the UIS and UIUC Senates soon. Professor Burbules commented that any new proposed statutory revisions would need to be proposed separately rather than be a part of this process.

Professor Wink commented that language in ST-83 tries to clarify what it means to be faculty. Professor Burbules added that the current *Statutes* define faculty as being in the tenure system. The proposed revisions change that.

2. ST-84. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4 – Changes in Existing Units. Passed UIUC Senate 11/12/18. Transmitted to Senates 12/18/18. Revised UIUC Senate document 4/22/19. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 5/7/19. Passed UIS Senate 8/30/19. Passed with amendments UIC Senate 1/30/20. UIC Senate amendments transmitted to UIS and UIUC Senates 3/2/20. Passed UIS Senate 4/3/20. Passed with

amendments UIUC Senate 4/27/20. Reconciled language approved by USC 5/29/20. Reconciled language to Senates 6/2/20. UIUC Senate USSP response 6/5/20. UIC SEC response 6/10/20. UIS Senate response 4/30/21. Transmitted to President 6/3/21.

3. ST-85. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 1 (Tenure of Academic Staff) (a) 6 and 7 – to permit the use of five-year appointments for non-tenure track faculty. Passed UIC Senate 4/22/20. Transmitted to UIS and UIUC Senates 5/1/20. Passed UIUC Senates 3/8/21. Passed UIS Senate 3/26/21. Transmitted to the President 4/5/21.

4. ST-86. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article III, Sections 3 and 5, and Article VI – Dean, Director, or Campus Librarian. Passed UIUC Senate 4/27/20. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 5/1/20. Passed UIC Senates 10/21/20. Passed UIS Senate 4/9/21. Transmitted to President 5/5/21.

5. ST-87. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article I, Sections 5 – Chancellors and Vice Presidents, Article II, Section 3a (1) – Faculty Role in Governance, and Article III, Section 1g – The University. Passed UIUC Senate 11/15/21. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 3/2/22.

6. ST-88. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article IV, Section 1 – The Department, Section 2 – Department Organized with a Chair, Section 3 – Department Organized with a Head, and Section 4 – Change of Departmental Administrative Organization. Passed UIUC Senate 3/7/22. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 4/6/22.

[2-6] Professor Burbules said that ST-84, ST-85, and ST-86 have been transmitted to the President and will be folded into ST-83 when the document is ready to be sent to the Board. ST-87 and ST-88 will be considered after the senates complete S-83.

7. OT-372. Proposal to establish a consultation process for system policies. Sent to Executive Vice President Wilson 2/3/21. Response from Executive Vice President 5/6/21. USC discussed moving forward on 6/24/21.

There was no new information.

8. OT-381. EO Accountability

9. OT-382. FBBC report back to USC re: tuition/cost of attendance

10. OT-383. Experiences with senate auditors

11. OT-384. Experiences with the Office of Legal Counsel

[8-11] These items were removed from the agenda under Today's Business.

12. University Updates

Professor Wink said that UIC has a new Chancellor. The UIC Senate has revised its bylaws in response to its audit.

Professor Weuve reported that UIS currently has searches being conducted for two vice chancellors, two deans, and a provost. An interim provost has served for six months. They hope to have someone in place by July 1.

Professor Burbules reported that UIUC is bringing in four candidates for the provost position next week. The names are public.

13. OT-381. Updates from Standing Committees: Academic Affairs and Research (AARC); Finance, Budget, and Benefits Committee (FBBC); Statutes and Governance Committee (SGC).

There were no reports.

14. OT-142. Updates from External Groups with USC Representatives: Anti-Bullying Policy (Weuve); Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee (Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, Donald Wink); Enrollment Management Policy Council (Donald Wink); President's Executive Leadership Program (Celest Weuve); U of I System Going Forward: Excellence Amid COVID-19 Steering Committee (John Dallesasse); University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council (Michael Stroschio); Code of Conduct (Joyce Tolliver, Celest Weuve).

There were no reports.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.