

MINUTES<sup>1</sup>  
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, April 18, 2013

PLACE: Room C Public Affairs Center, Springfield

PRESENT: Andersen, Boltuc (Vice Chair), Burbules (Chair), Campbell, Chambers, Deberry-Spence, Erricolo, Fadavi, Fisher, Francis, Leff\*, Mallory, Mohammadian, Shanahan\*, Struble, Tolliver, Villegas, Wheeler

ABSENT: Gibori, Graber

GUESTS: Robert Easter, Katherine Galvin, Walter Knorr, Margaret O'Donoghue, Christophe Pierre

\* Attended by phone in the morning

Professor Nicholas Burbules, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

I. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Burbules commented that shared governance is working well at the University of Illinois. He discussed the importance of the University Senates Conference and noted its role in the determination of several major issues. Professor Burbules asked Conference members to share information with colleagues about the support that comes from USC and the shared governance process in general. He pointed out the example of the President's plan to delete the furlough notification language in notices of appointment after he consulted with faculty leaders.

Professor Burbules said that the Conference could play a role in finding ways to share information about the actual budget situation of the University. There are misconceptions that there is a large reserve of money being held. He mentioned the discussion at the last USC meeting where the President clarified many of these misconceptions. Professor Burbules thanked Vice President Knorr for attending the meeting to give a comprehensive view of the financial status of the University.

II. Meeting with President Easter, Vice President Knorr, and Vice President Pierre

President Easter confirmed that he is working on removing the disclaimer about furloughs in the notices of appointment. He then introduced Vice President Knorr, Chief Financial Officer of the University, and summarized the Vice President's vast experience in managing finances, which has mostly been in the public sector.

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<sup>1</sup>Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of May 15, 2013

Vice President Knorr provided a comprehensive view of the University's budget; including revenues, expenditures, and credit status. He provided data comparisons with the other Big Ten institutions. In total cash and investments, the University has pulled itself up to the median. The University is not doing so well with cash on hand and unrestricted financial resources to operations. The University's overall credit rating is Aa2. All of the other Big Ten institutions have higher ratings with the exception of Penn State, which is the same. The University's problem is due to the State's poor financial situation. The State is 6-7 months behind in appropriation payments to the University.

Vice President Knorr said that State appropriations for FY13 were \$647M. The University has been told to expect a 5% cut, which is about \$32M. However with payments from the State being delayed, the actual amount received has been less than the appropriated amount. He added that 23% of the University's financial resources are unrestricted. However, these funds belong to specific units and are dedicated for specific purposes.

Vice President Pierre reported that the campuses are losing faculty. Chicago and Urbana have been recruiting faculty, but not fast enough to make up for the losses. Non-tenure-track faculty are being hired, but not in sufficient numbers. Class sizes are increasing.

President Easter commented on the graph indicating that the U of I's state appropriation is 31% of its total revenues, which is higher than any other Big Ten institution. He explained that this number includes payments on behalf, such as health insurance, which the other universities pay out of their budgets.

Vice President Knorr indicated that 24% of the University's total revenues come from tuition. President Easter said that the University cannot continue to raise tuition. Over time, there may be a point where tuition income is not enough to support the operations of a campus. The University may need to reevaluate the allocation of funds to the campuses. Vice President Pierre reported on performance based funding, which currently only determines ½ of a percent of the state appropriation.

President Easter said that he and Vice Presidents Knorr and Pierre are meeting with the chancellors and provosts to discuss activities that appear to be outside of the core academic mission and might no longer be relevant for the University to continue.

Professor Burbules commented on the IGPA 6-point pension reform plan, which has been endorsed by the heads of the state public universities.

President Easter introduced Peg O'Donoghue, who is a special assistant in his office, and Katherine Galvin, UIUC Associate Provost of Administrative Affairs. He mentioned that both are attorneys and have experience with statutory issues. Ms. O'Donoghue used to be with University Counsel. They joined the meeting to discuss proposed statutory revisions regarding academic freedom (USC ST-72), which have been approved by all three senates and forwarded to President Easter. Before forwarding the proposal to the Board, the President is seeking clarification of some of the points in the language.

Ms. O'Donoghue said that the current *Statutes* cover academic freedom, which falls outside of the Constitution itself. Some relevant issues to consider are how academic freedom is defined, how public employees are covered under the First Amendment, what the limits would be on expression, and what the University can do when conduct falls outside of an acceptable range while still meeting the spirit of the amendment. She asked what the purpose was of including academic staff. Another concern was the intention of putting academic freedom language and First Amendment language in the same paragraph. She commented that there is shared responsibility with shared governance rights. Ms. Galvin expressed concern that the objectives and goals of the proposed language might have unintended consequences.

Professor Burbules reminded everyone that all three senates have approved the language. President Easter said that he wants to understand what is trying to be accomplished and be comfortable with any language that is put forth to the Board.

Conference members pointed out that the proposal also contains the language "subject to the applicable academic standards of conduct." It was stressed that the faculty have experience in dealing with these issues and there are procedures in place to address abuses.

Professor Burbules suggested that a subgroup from the Conference be identified to work through the wording with Ms. O'Donoghue and Ms. Galvin. Professors Boltuc, Erricolo, and Tolliver were appointed to serve on the subgroup. There was clarification that any revisions that might be made to the proposal would go back to the senates for consideration.

Professor Burbules provided a brief update on the Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government.

President Easter shared the Conference's concern that the University cannot provide to retired employees who have been hired back ID cards that indicate the person is actively employed by the University. Ms. O'Donoghue said that, at the request of the President, she is pursuing this issue and will work with Human Resources to find some options that might address this concern.

### III. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of March 27, 2013

The minutes were approved as written.

### IV. Classification of Senate Minutes

Class I:	Matters of policy affecting one campus only. Item is sent to the President and Board of Trustees for action.
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Class II:	Matters affecting more than one campus. Item is sent to Senate(s) for action, then to President and Board of Trustees. At the time of this classification, the Conference member will file with the recording secretary an accurate final copy of the Senate action.
Class III:	Amendments to the <i>University of Illinois Statutes</i> . Procedure is the same as with Class II items. At the time of reporting this classification, the Conference member will file with the recording secretary an accurate final copy of the Senate action.
Class N:	This designation requires no USC action, but alerts one or more Senates to an item of interest from the originating Senate. The "N" is preceded by and followed by a lower case letter(s); c = Chicago; s = Springfield; u = Urbana-Champaign; usc = University Senates Conference. Example: "cNs,u" means that a matter has come up in the Chicago Senate, which may be of interest to Springfield and Urbana-Champaign.

A. The following items were classified I by the University Senates Conference:

1. University of Illinois at Springfield, April 5, 2013

R42-20 Graduate Certificate in Business Intelligence

R42-23 Online Graduate Certificate in Teacher Leadership

B. The following items were classified N by the University Senates Conference:

2. University of Illinois at Springfield, April 5, 2013

R42-21 Graduate Grading Policy Clarification

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

V. Old Business – Action Items

No items for action.

## VI. New Business

### 1. OT-298. Shared Governance in a Changing Environment.

Professor Burbules opened the discussion with comments about how shared governance might be affected on campuses with a faculty union. He felt that it was inappropriate for a union member to act as a representative of the union while in the role of a senator or USC member. Professor Deberry-Spence said that there has been confusion with the role and responsibilities of the union at UIC and cited some examples. Professor Boltuc commented that it might take time to work out a co-existence model between the senate and union. Professor Frances commented that some faculty are in such a demoralized state that they see the union as salvation. He suggested engaging the union in determining a shared policy.

Professor Andersen mentioned the importance of putting the good of the University before advancing the goals of any particular constituency. Professor Chambers pointed out that the Conference approved a mission statement to that effect. Professor Tolliver commented that the Conference approved a statement affirming the *Statutes* and *General Rules* as the governing documents of the University. She had no qualms with the Conference tackling issues that affect the function of USC and define shared governance. Professor Burbules suggested that the Conference work over the course of the summer to look at ways to move business forward in a pro-shared governance approach.

## VII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

### 2. OT-288. Faculty/Staff Pension and Benefit Issues (formerly Resolution on Pensions/Pension Reform).

The Conference discussed whether it should weigh in on the IGPA 6-point plan. Professor Chambers moved that the Conference send a letter in support of the framework of the plan. The motion was seconded. After discussion, the Conference decided to postpone any action. Professor Chambers withdrew the motion.

### 3. Report from *ad hoc* Committee on SB1900.

Professor Burbules noted that a committee of Peter Boltuc, Kouros Mohammadian, Leslie Struble, and Matthew Wheeler had been created to look at the bill and provide advice, but the bill has changed. Professor Chambers said that the Conference might want to wait to see what happens with the bill and then set up a meeting with Senator Biss to engage in a dialogue with him about higher education issues in general.

### 4. ST-79/OT-296. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the *Statutes*. Transmitted to Senates 4/5/13.

No new information.

5. ST-72. Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 2 (Academic Freedom). Passed UIUC Senate 12/6/10; Passed UIC Senate 9/22/11. Passed UIS Senate 12/14/12. Transmitted to the President 1/18/13.

Professor Burbules thanked Professors Boltuc, Erricolo, and Tolliver for agreeing to work with Peg O'Donoghue and Katherine Galvin. Professor Tolliver said that Peg indicated that an explanatory document might be helpful.

6. ST-77/GR-46. Revisions to the *Statutes* and *General Rules* – Edits and Updates.

Professor Burbules said that the process is slowing down and no action is expected during this academic year.

7. NC-19. Nominating Committee for 2013-14 Officers, Executive Committee, and USC Committees.

No new information.

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

Professor Burbules reported that President Easter is fully supportive of the Conference resuming the reviews. The procedure used in the past was to receive the annual reports of accomplishments and goals from the President's Office and provide comments to the President. He asked the Conference whether a more in-depth review should be done of one of the vice presidents. After discussion, Professor Burbules said that he would consult with the President.

9. OT-297. Implications of the Open Meetings Act to the operations of the University Senates Conference.

No new information.

10. OT-291. Recommendation to establish Faculty Advisory Committees for all four Vice Presidents.

Professor Burbules suggested that this be discussed in the context of the vice president reviews.

11. OT-123. Discussion of University Senates Conference guests.

The Conference discussed possible guests for future meetings.

12. Campus Updates.

Professor Villegas reported that Chancellor Koch is organizing conversations with the faculty in order to develop the UIS strategic planning report. Professor Wheeler reported that the UIUC Chancellor would be hosting a town hall meeting the following Monday on the visioning excellence results. The Senate is working to improve its listserv so there can be open online discussions. Professor Mohammadian reported that the UIC SEC is considering a proposal that has been made to change the rules in order to allow instructors to become members of the senate. The UIC SEC recently met with Trustee Estrada.

13. Board of Trustees Meeting: Wednesday, May 29, 2013, Chicago

Scheduled Observer:	Lynn Fisher
Faculty Report:	Donald Chambers

14. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

Academic Affairs and Research Committee	Matthew Wheeler
Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee	Peter Boltuc
Hospital and Health Affairs Committee	Donald Chambers
Statutes and Governance Committee	Joyce Tolliver

Professor Tolliver reported that SGC will be meeting with Trustee Strobel on Monday to initiate a relationship with her and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Professor Campbell (FBBC) reported that there are efforts to reconstitute a budget process where the campuses and University Administration are sharing concrete information.

Professor Chambers reported that HHAC is developing a mission statement. The committee has met with a number of administrators. He noted that the Board retreat in July will be on the health enterprise.

15. OT-142. Updates on External Committees: Common Application Consortium (Graber); Enrollment Management Policy Council (Leff); Pre- and Post-Award Research Money Policy group (Wheeler); Strategic Communications and Marketing Council (Villegas); UI Labs Task Force (Chambers); University Technology Management Team (Campbell); Vice President for Academic Affairs Faculty Advisory Committee (Burbules, Chambers, Mohammadian, Villegas); Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee (Boltuc, Chambers, Wheeler).

Professor Wheeler reported on the Pre- and Post-Award policy group, which is evaluating the process. Efforts are being made to encourage Grants and Contact to not add more regulations.

Professor Campbell reported on UTMT's efforts to enable units to be able to prepare their own "dashboard" type spreadsheets.

Professor Burbules reported that the VPAA FAC discussed budget issues and minority student recruitment and completion. Professor Mohammadian added that the group's list of topics has also included the changing landscape of higher education, preparing for the future, and online education.

Professor Leff sent an EMPC report via email. The group has had a preliminary discussion of UIC's experience with the common application admissions procedure, a discussion of alternative customer relations management systems for UIC and UIS, and tracking reports for admission processes for the three campuses.

Professor Wheeler reported that the VPR FAC met the day before. Topics included UI Labs, pre- and post-awards, and compliance policy.

#### 16. Review of Pending Items.

No new information.

### VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



Pending USC Items  
April 18, 2013

OT-167. Faculty Representation to the Board of Trustees. UIUC Resolution 9/27/99. UIS Resolution 11/5/99. UIC resolution 12/2/99. USC Resolution to Senates 2/3/00. Endorsed by UIS 2/18/00. Endorsed by UIC 3/9/00. Endorsed by UIUC 4/24/00. Transmitted to the President 6/30/00. Transmitted to the Board 7/6/00. Letter from Trustee Eppley institutionalizing process for meetings with Chair of BoT Academic Affairs Committee and senate observers 12/1/04. Letter to Ikenberry 12/10/09.

OT-248. Intellectual Property Issues.

OT-260. University Information Security Policy.

OT-262. Accelerated Degree Program.

OT-265. Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government Foundation.

OT-268. Administrative Reorganization.

OT-276. Performance Based Funding.

OT-280. Faculty Participation in Shared Governance at University of Illinois.