

University Senates Conference
Academic Affairs & Research Committee
Minutes

DATE: Thursday, August 21, 2025

PLACE: University of Illinois Springfield
Student Union, Room 223
2251 Richard Wright Dr
Springfield, IL

PRESENT: Clancy, Herrera, Kalita, Mi, Symes, Wink

ABSENT: None

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Professor Clancy.

II. Approval of remote participation

No remote participants.

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval of the Minutes from August 21, 2025

Professor Wink made a motion to approve the minutes from August 21, 2025. Professor Kalita seconded the motion. No discussion. The minutes were approved with a voice vote by AARC Members.

Yes: Clancy, Herrera, Kalita, Mi, Symes, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

V. Today's Business

a. How can we open lines of communication with BOT on our concerns?

i. Students taking courses at difference universities within the system – this committee's role is on academic issues, and we would like more information from EVP Jones:

1. What is going on so far, dealing with academic & financial issues?
2. What happened to academic impact we had with University of Chicago, etc. (lost w/ Big10 expansion)?
3. That is there are barriers for system faculty to work together, mini conference was a way to wedge in. Siloing habit. Why at a place w/ breadth, depth, size, are we bad at supporting trans disc/interdisciplinary research across colleges, campuses? If we put students first will we get more traction? Will formally ask EVP Jones to join us next month-specifically to ask about resource sharing across campuses.
4. Another issue-class management and safety, a KYR (Know Your Rights) Training? Needs to be co-developed in a mini-conf. Also an opportunity for civic education. Do students know their rights and responsibilities? Do they know recording without consent is illegal in Illinois? Cannot lose

sight of political moment “weaponizing civic norms.” The “keep your head down, don’t say stupid stuff” isn’t helpful because we are not saying stupid stuff, it’s informed by expertise. Honoring integrity of their work.

5. Academic Freedom and civic engagement in “uncertain times” system-wide symposium – case studies across disciplines? Half day, hybrid – promise of producing a report, as per Prof. Wink’s recommendation based on a prior effort. Professor Clancy will reach out to EVP Jones to ask about next steps. Can we educate BOT on inter-campus collaboration? Could we regularize it? Professor Clancy will write up pitch and send to committee members. Why is it so hard to create consortium here when similar models exist and are successful elsewhere?

- b. How can we get ahead of Visa issues?

No discussion.

- VI. New Business
None

- VII. Old Business
None

- VIII. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Information for Minutes provided by Professor Clancy.

David Perryn
USC Administration