

MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: February 18, 2026

PLACE: University of Illinois Chicago I Hotel & Conference Center
College of Pharmacy, Room 145 Excellence Room
833 S Wood St . 1900 S. 1st St.
Chicago, IL Champaign, IL

University of Illinois Springfield
Brookens Library, Room 180G
One University Plaza
Springfield, IL

PRESENT: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, Danziger, De Groot (Chair), Fisher, Floros, Hale, Herrera, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Symes, Tolliver, Wink

UIC: Carmichael, Danziger, De Groot, Erricolo, Floros, Schwinn, Wink
UIS: Barnwell, Fisher, Mi
UIUC: Clancy, Herrera, Lyons, Maher, Moorhouse, Roseman, Symes, Tolliver
Online: Erricolo, Floros, Lyons, Tolliver

ABSENT: Hale, Kalita

GUESTS: Nicholas Jones, Gretchen Lohman, Jeffrey Stein

I. Call to Order

Professor De Groot called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor De Groot mentioned that Secretary Stein will join the meeting in the later portion of the morning session with President Killeen and EVP Jones. Looking ahead there will be an abbreviated USC Meeting in April so the Senate Minutes can be classified and the USC Nominating Committee will be appointed.

III. Roll Call

Mr. Perryn called the roll. Quorum: Yes, with 12 members present.

Members physically present during roll call:

UIC: Carmichael, Danziger, De Groot, Schwinn

UIS: Mi

UIUC: Clancy, Herrera, Lyons, Maher, Moorhouse, Roseman, Tolliver

Not physically present: Barnwell, Erricolo, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Kalita, Symes, Wink

IV. Approval of remote participation

Professor Maher made a motion for approval of remote participation for USC Members that are not physically present, attending via Zoom (Erricolo, Floros, Lyons, Symes,

Tolliver) to vote and participate in the meeting. Professor Clancy seconded the motion. No discussion. A roll call vote was taken by members in the room. Motion passed.

Yes: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, Danziger, De Groot, Herrera, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Tolliver

No: None

Abstain: None

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Approval of the minutes from January 20, 2026

Professor Tolliver made a motion to approve the minutes from January 20, 2026.

Professor Moorhouse seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote by members in the room and those attending online.

Yes: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, Danziger, De Groot (Chair), Herrera, Lyons, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Tolliver, Wink

Online: Erricolo, Floros, Symes

No: Maher

Abstain: None

VII. Classification of Senate Minutes

Professor Wink made a motion to approve the Classification of Senate Minutes.

Professor Moorhouse seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote by members in the room and those attending online.

Yes: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, Danziger, De Groot (Chair), Herrera, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Tolliver, Wink

Online: Erricolo, Floros, Symes

No: None

Abstain: None

Class I: Matters of policy affecting one campus only. Item is sent to the President and Board of Trustees for action.

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 University of Illinois Statutes. The 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. UIC:
January 29, 2026

Class I

PR-26.29, Proposal to Revise the Doctor of Public Health and Establish the Concentration in Leadership

PR-26.30, Proposal to Revise Examination Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology, Law, and Justice

PR-26.31, Proposal to Eliminate the Master of Arts in Theatre

PR-26.32, Proposal to Revise the Master of Design in Graphic Design and Master of Design in Industrial Design to Establish a Path for Students from Non-Design Backgrounds

PR-26.33, Proposal to Establish the Joint Master of Science in Health Information Management / Master of Science in Health Informatics

PR-26.34, Proposal to Rename and Revise the Minor in Professional Sales and Relationship Management

PR-26.35, Proposal to Revise the Minor in Sports Management

PR-26.36, Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in History

PR-26.37, Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Black Studies and Revise the Minor in Black Studies

PR-26.38, Proposal to Rename and Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health

CP-26.04, Proposal to Eliminate the Campus Certificate in Disability Ethics

CP-26.05, Proposal to Eliminate the Campus Certificate in Management and Leadership in the Nonprofit Disability Organization

CP-26.06, Proposal to Revise the Admission Requirements of the Campus Certificate in Artificial Intelligence in Business

Class N

First Reading: Proposed revision to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 6b – Severe Sanctions Other Than Dismissal for Cause for Members of the Faculty (**USC ST-92**)

The UIC Senate approved a proposed revision to the “University of Illinois Chicago Honorary Degree Guidelines.”

The UIC Senate provided feedback to the UIC Graduate College about the UIC Graduate Student Positive Learning Environment Policy.

The UIC Senate approved the Policy for Instructor-Authored Teaching Materials that Financially Benefit the Instructor.

b. UIS:

Class I

January 23, 2026

Resolution 55-26 Eliminate the Minor in Liberty Studies

Resolution 55-27 Eliminate the Minor in Social Responsibility and Leadership Development

February 18, 2026

Resolution 55-29 Establish a Bachelor of Applied Science in Engineering Technology

Resolution 55-30 Establish a School of Engineering in the College of Health, Science, and Technology

Resolution 55-32 Establish a Concentration in Health Promotion and Community Health (Online) and a Concentration in Epidemiology (On-Ground) in the Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree

- c. UIUC:
February 9, 2026

Class I

- (a) EP.26.086, Revise the Concentration in Higher Education in the College of Education and the Graduate College
- b) EP.25.087, Establish the Master of Science in Economic Modeling, AI, and Data Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College
- c) EP.26.088, Establish the Undergraduate Minor in Quantum Information Science in the Grainger College of Engineering
- d) EP.26.089, Establish the Master of Science in Neuroscience in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College
- e) EP.26.090, Revise the Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology in the College of Applied Health Sciences
- f) EP. 26.091, Revise and Rename the Concentration in Teacher Education K-12 in the Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology in the College of Applied Health Sciences
- g) EP.26.092, Establish the Concentration in Applied Exercise Science in the Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology in the College of Applied Health Sciences
- h) EP.26.093, Establish the Concentration in Biobehavioral Health Science in the Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology in the College of Applied Health Sciences
- i) EP.26.094, Establish the Concentration in Health Sciences in the Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology in the College of Applied Health Sciences
- j) EP.26.097, Revise the Bachelor of Science in Sustainability in Food and Environmental Systems in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
- k) EP.26.098, Establish the Undergraduate Minor in Entrepreneurship in the Gies College of Business
- l) EP.26.100, Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural and Biological Engineering in the Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College

Class N

- a) EP.26.085, Report of Administrative Approvals Through February 9, 2026
- b) SP.26.10, Revision to *Standing Rule 15* - Use of Electronic Clickers in the Senate

VIII. Meeting with EVP Jones, Gretchen Lohman, and Secretary Stein – 10:15

Professor De Groote welcomed EVP Jones and Ms. Lohman, who joined from the I Hotel & Conference Center.

Ms. Lohman provided insight into her background having worked for the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and how that enhances her current role as Interim Vice President University Academic Programs and Services (UAPS). UAPS assists with new university programs that need to advance to IBHE.

Ms. Lohman mentioned some of the challenges faced by transfer students after speaking transfer coordinators at each of the universities:

- 1) Primarily at UIC and UIUC, students are deciding too late in their transfer journey to apply, so they are unable to meet the deadlines on time
- 2) Some students do not meet the prerequisite or minimum GPA.
- 3) There is not a lot of mandatory advising at the community college level which limits access.
- 4) Affordability (This year UIS will include transfer students in free tuition programs, joining UIC and UIUC.)

Transfer students on average earn a higher GPA. Ms. Lohman indicated that degree audits are conducted to determine the percentage of credits applied to student degrees. The 2020 audit concluded that 87% of credits were applied. The State of Illinois is interested in zero credit loss. A copy of Public Act 104-0402 was shared with Mr. Perryn and distributed to USC on transfer reporting.

The UI System is taking a proactive approach and has partnered with community colleges, city colleges and Parkland, to set up a memorandum of agreement to allow for them to share names at the admissions level for students who are interested in one UIC, UIS, or UIUC for a transfer destination. A virtual session on the UI System Transfer Guarantee is offered twice a year.

Most transfer students are Illinois residents. In fall of 2016, they were 86%, compared to 89% in fall of 2025. Illinois Community College transfers are about 98%. In fall 2025, the UI System enrolled 4,552 students compared to 3,926 in 2016. About 68% were from

community colleges, vs. 64% in 2016. 19% were out of state, compared to 24% in 2016/2017. 5% were from Illinois private, and 8% from Illinois public, which has not really changed over the last 10 years.

EVP Jones mentioned that some students are physically tied to where they reside, which is one of the reasons for exploring hybrid and online options. EVP Jones mentioned being informed by students at Illinois Eastern Community College (IECC) in Olney that they complete their associates degree at IECC and then they commute to four-year colleges and universities in southwest Indiana since they are closer than the nearest Illinois Public. How can the UI System provide an option?

Ms. Lohman provided insight into the Illinois Articulation Act (IAI) which requires that every public university and community college in the state participate in the statewide transfer system. There are IAI courses that transfer at the general education level and at the major level. EVP Jones remarked that the UI System has worked on opportunities and is now 100% compliant. Additionally, the UI System offers the Transferology Tool to help identify courses that will transfer. Ms. Lohman mentioned that suggestions are welcome.

In terms of post pandemic impacts on decision making, Ms. Lohman's staff provided insight. Financial aid and affordability are important factors. Students are more interested in their return on investment. Students who decide in the spring are usually cost conscious, whereas other students are waiting for their full financial aid package. They choose institutions that are clearly connected to their academic program related to job security and market demand. Students are applying to more colleges. The Higher Education Research Institute found that 57% of students applied to 6 or more colleges. UIS participates in the one-click admit program in the state. This can be overwhelming. Ms. Lohman's son applied as a high school senior, and had 82 offers, 15 that were in-state. An offer with financial aid attached is more meaningful.

Enrollment growth has occurred at four-year institutions, but it has not surpassed pre-pandemic enrollment. Community college growth can be attributed mostly to dual credit increases.

Ms. Lohman offered to return to a future USC Meeting to present on the transfer credit study when it has been completed.

EVP Jones mentioned that with admissions, it is a complicated year. Offers are going out and students are making decisions. Applications are up for all three universities driven by Illinois Resident Students and non-resident, non-international students. There was an impact on international student applications. UIS has been impacted by students who can get Visa's but cannot get interviews. There is some softness in accepted offers in comparison to prior years. EVP Jones plans to have data for the next USC Meeting.

EVP Jones mentioned that the change from Banner (Enterprise Resource Planning System) to SAAS (Software as a service) will be a business process transformation, not a software update.

There is an effort for community colleges to begin offering a bachelor's of applied science degree. There are many factors including the cost to offering this kind of program. It is not clear what the community college will charge. It may or may not be at the same rate for an associate's degree.

The Governor's Budget Address is today and there may be a 1% increase to higher education. Last year it was 3% but 2% was held back. A briefing occurs an hour ahead of the address, but otherwise there is no information known.

EVP Jones mentioned Positive Time Reporting which is required by the state. This has been an audit finding for faculty for some time. The UI System is asking for faculty to be exempted from this.

USC inquired about the continued support of current efforts by the UI System in cybersecurity with the leadership transition to a new UI System President. EVP Jones assured USC that the next president would be a supporter of cybersecurity and online learning initiatives.

The proposed Equitable Funding Model is being considered again and there are advocacy groups pushing support for it. It is known that the UI System is not supportive of the proposed legislation in its current form. EVP Jones read a draft of a one-page talking point document on the proposed Equitable Funding Model.

Secretary Stein joined the meeting via Zoom to provide insight into the search process for the next UI System President. Next week, the BOT will meet to vote on the composition of the search committee. In the meantime, Secretary Stein has contacted the Senate Clerks and Mr. Perryn for USC to suggest they begin their process to determine names and bios from each Senate to send to USC. USC will then refer the list of names and bios to BOT for consideration when the BOT determines who will serve on the search committee for the next UI System President.

Secretary Stein indicated that the BOT is committed to transparency about the process, being proactive, thoughtful and deliberative. While the process is transparent, they will also maintain an appropriate amount of confidentiality and the same is expected for anyone serving on the search committee. There will be a vote in April for the BOT to seat the search committee.

The BOT is likely to vote on the search firm at the March BOT Meeting. A system study

will follow. Town Halls will be conducted to take in perspective and will involve search committee members and others working on the search. Open recruitment is toward the June timeframe, with a president identified by the turn of the year.

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to Secretary Stein for joining.

USC inquired with EVP Jones if there were any concerns over infringement of rights in the areas of public protests, immigration status, etc. EVP Jones was not aware of any new policies in development. There had a been a policy on scholarships which was already completed. There is no formal communication to university leadership at this time. Topics are discussed, and engagement is conducted constructively and productively with faculty, staff and students about things that are going on and how to process them.

USC inquired about policies for releasing information. EVP Jones responded that the UI System and its universities are governed by FERPA (Family Rights and Privacy Act). Information is only shared when it is demanded in a legally consistent and appropriate manner. If not approached in that manner, the request will be declined.

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to EVP Jones, Ms. Lohman and Secretary Stein for attending.

The USC Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:19 p.m. and resumed at 2:25 p.m.

Committee meetings were held from 1:03 p.m. – 2:17 p.m.

PRESENT: Barnwell, Clancy, Danziger, De Groote, Erricolo, Floros, Herrera, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Tolliver, Wink

UIC: Danziger, De Groote, Floros, Schwinn, Wink

UIUC: Clancy, Herrera, Maher, Moorhouse, Roseman

UIS: Barnwell, Mi

Online: Erricolo, Lyons, Tolliver

IX. Today's Business – Action Items – 2:20 p.m.

a. Review schedule of Presenters and Observers

BOT Mtg/Loc.	Presenter	Observer/From
3/19/2026 (UIS)	Herrera	Mi (UIS)
5/21/2026 (UIUC)	Clancy	Maher (UIUC)
7/16/2026 (UIUC)	De Groote	Moorhouse (UIUC)

b. Determine presentation topics to the Board of Trustees Meetings

- i. March 19, 2026-The World in Illinois: Opportunities and Challenges
 - ii. May 21, 2026-A look back at the AARC Symposia
The topic was changed to “Public Education for the Public Good.”
 - iii. July 16, 2026-End of Year Report on the University Senates Conference
- X. Discuss ASAC presentation to the Board of Trustees (Wink)
Professor Wink will be assisting in a presentation as part of a group speaking on Promotion & Tenure (P & T) at the March BOT Meeting.to help them understand the process. USC does not have a role in P & T; it is the role of faculty. Prior to a case being submitted to the BOT, over 50 people have reviewed the case.
- XI. Discuss the formal proposal for the symposium and next step
Professor Clancy introduced the proposal document to USC and mentioned that the committee is composed of members that were not on it when the idea on the symposia was suggested. Professor Clancy asked Professor Schwinn to offer insight as needed since he served on the committee last year. Professor Clancy recalled a meeting that AARC held with EVP Jones last fall in which the topic of public education for the public good arose. They spoke about the relationship between the University of Illinois Extension and the farmers. The goal began to focus on how to better operate, understand, and start the conversation with and among the public we are here to serve. In doing this work, it will provide clarity mission of the UI Systems.

Professor Wink referenced an instance in 1998 where a trans university seminar was conducted to look at online education. There were around ten speakers, and the group wrote a report.

Professor Herrera spoke about the proposal which would offer four symposia. What is public education for the public good? How is the public good changing?

Professor De Groote read aloud feedback provided by Professor Tolliver in her absence:

“Kudos to AARC for having thought of this important topic and for the rich brainstorming that the proposal represents.

As it stands now, the role of USC is fairly minimal, both in terms of planning and in terms of the proposed implementation. I believe the role of the Conference and the role of the campuses and the System should both be significantly strengthened.

Specifically, the initiatives already in place on the part of the System and the universities, and the faculty members who make them happen, should be central to this event. Extension is a primary example, as EVP Jones commented, but there are other public outreach initiatives on all three campuses as well. Two examples from the Urbana campus are the Education for Justice Program, which focuses on outreach to the

incarcerated, and the We CU initiative, which coordinates and supports courses that incorporate community outreach into their design.

The folks who lead those programs can surely provide suggestions about members of the community who would benefit from participation in the symposium. Likewise, there are many community engaged courses on our campus; students who participate in them, the faculty leading them, and the participating community organizations should all be involved in such a symposium.”

Professor De Groote asked AARC to be sure they feel this is documented enough so it could carry on if there were different committee members next year so they don't have to stop and regroup. Professor De Groote requested AARC inquire with USC Members about who to invite before sending invitations to speakers.

Professor Maher referenced the conversation with Chancellor Isbell at the last USC Meeting. It is important to connect in a public facing capacity to get their understanding of what is the public good and what is meant by the “public.” How can a library be explained these days when it is less for providing books and more for a space to review? While those in higher education believe public education is public good, when others do not, that is a problem that belongs to those in higher education.

AARC will prepare a final document to submit to USC for a vote at the March 24 meeting. Professor Clancy welcomed any additional feedback.

XII. Today's Business – Discussion

a. USC Response to Guests

With regard to the approach mentioned by EVP Jones to utilize a one-page document offering reasoning of why the proposed Equity Funding Formula is not good, an elevator speech approach is also encouraged.

USC expressed the importance of staying involved with the transfer credit concern. This is a large part of the reputational structure. This may be a concern to take back to the senates.

A discussion was held regarding the process for sending names and bios of interested faculty to assist in the UI System Presidential Search. It was noted that while there is a request to each senate, there is not a request for a USC Member. A USC Member can be sent to USC by their respective senate.

b. USC Representation (# TBD) for the search committee for President

Professor De Groote indicated that after Secretary Stein presented today it was clear that names and bios will be sent to USC from each senate. USC will not offer names, but instead refer the names to the BOT. Mr. Perryn distributed documentation from the last search which was sent from the USC Chair to the BOT Secretary that included names and bios.

c. Review and provide feedback

- i. University Code of Conduct –
Professor De Groote advised input from the previous USC Meeting had been included in proposed feedback document. Along with the feedback, a request would be made to have a revision sent back to USC which would then be distributed to the senates. At that time, input would be provided from USC and the senates for further consideration.

Professor Roseman left the meeting at 3:29 p.m.

USC inquired about the purpose of the document. Besides being foundational, giving each university an opportunity to create their own, it also is important for UI System Office employees.

A suggestion was made for there to be two documents, one that is aspirational and another that is actionable.

USC suggested that terms such as respect, civility, and decency be defined terms in the revised University Code of Conduct.

USC suggested to delete the sentence “Violations of the University Code of Conduct may be addressed as performance issues.”

Professor Clancy made a motion to vote on the feedback with the suggestion that the document needs to separate aspirational from the actionable, and that USC feels that it would be useful for them to revise the document first. Then USC feels that the senates, in addition to USC should have an opportunity to responds to the revised document or documents. Professor Danziger seconded the motion. A discussion was held. Professor Barnwell made a motion to postpone the vote. Professor Schwinn seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote by members in the room and those attending online. The item will appear on the March 24, 2026, agenda for a vote. Any further comments should be sent to Mr. Perryn by February 20, 2026.

Yes: Barnwell, Clancy, Danziger, De Groote (Chair), Floros,
Herrera, Maher, Moorhouse, Mi, Schwinn, Wink
Online: Erricolo, Lyons

No: None
Abstain: Tolliver

- ii. Working Outside of Illinois Policy
USC suggested that there should be clear guidance when the policy should be used, and that the guidance is meant to be primarily flexible as opposed to restrictive. How many days? What if a person has two homes? The paperwork has been found to be cumbersome. There needs to be clear

expectations for when it should be applied and how it trickles down to each university.

USC would like to see feedback in a formal response to vote on at the March 24, 2026, USC Meeting. Any comments should be sent to Mr. Perryn by February 20, 2026.

- d. Brainstorm potential areas UIC, UIS, and UIUC could collaborate on more directly and provide this information to the three chancellors
Professor De Groote would like to have a discussion on this item when there is not an afternoon speaker so there is dedicated time.

XIII. 2027 USC Nominating Committee -Informational for today's meeting (USC Bylaws 4.3.1)

Professor De Groote will appoint the USC Nominating Committee at the April USC Meeting.

XIV. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

- a. OT-393: revised Policy on Integrity and Scholarly Activities
Letter transmitted to UIC, UIS, and UIUC Senate Executive Committee Chairs 10/23/2025 for input by 05/01/2026.

Status: Input is needed from UIC, UIS, and UIUC Senates.

- b. ST-83: Revisions to the *Statutes* – newly proposed revisions. Sent to Executive Vice President Wilson 05/01/2020. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 following ST- 77) transmitted to UIS, UIC, and UIUC Senates 09/02/2021. UIC responded with Collated Comments 01/12/2022. USC sent a request for bifurcation and clarification to UIC on 02/08/2022. UIC Senate Request for Modifications 12/01/2022. The proposed statutory revisions have been transmitted to UIS, UIC, and UIUC Senates. UIC, UIS, and UIUC Senates have sent their response. USC has referred ST-83 to SGC. ST-83 was transmitted to the Senates (UIC, UIS, UIUC) and President Killeen 08/28/2024. Addendum to ST-83 sent to the Senates (UIC, UIS, UIUC) and President Killeen 10/18/2024. ST-83 returned from President Killeen 12/02/2024. Letter to the Senates on the next steps for ST-83 sent 01/07/2025. Feedback received from UIC Senate 01/31/2025.

Status: ST-83 is currently being worked on by SGC.

- c. ST-87: Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article I, Section 5 – Chancellors and Vice Presidents, Article II, Section 3a (1) – Faculty Role in Governance, and Article III, Section 1g – The University. Passed UIUC Senate 11/15/2021. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates on 03/02/2022. Feedback received from UIS Senate 09/30/2025.

Status: Input is needed from UIC Senate.

- d. ST-89: Proposed Revisions to the Statutes, Article IV, Section 1 – The Department, Section 2 – Department Organized with a Chair (Section 2b – Department Organized with a Chair), Section 3 – Department Organized with a Head (Section 3b – Department Organized with a Head), and Section 4 – Change of Department Administrative Organization. Passed UIUC Senate 04/24/2023. Transmitted to UIC and UIS 06/21/2023.

Status: Input is needed from UIC and UIS Senates.

- e. ST-90: Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 7a – Sabbatical Leaves and Unpaid Leaves of Absence for Members of the Faculty. Passed UIC Senate 03/14/2024. USC referred ST-90 to SGC. Letter transmitted to UIC Senate with the request to resubmit after ST-83 has been resolved 08/06/2024. Transmitted ST-90 to UIS and UIUC Senate for input 04/23/2025.

Status: Input is needed from UIS and UIUC Senates.

- f. ST-91: Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II, Sections 3a (1) and 3a (2) – Faculty Role in Governance. Passed UIC Senate 03/14/2024. USC referred ST-91 to SGC. Letter transmitted to UIC Senate with the request to resubmit after ST-83 has been resolved 08/06/2024. Transmitted ST-91 to UIS and UIUC Senate for input 04/23/2025.

Status: Input is needed from UIS and UIUC Senates.

- g. ST-92: Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 6b – Severe Sanctions Other Than Dismissal for Cause for Members of the Faculty. Passed UIUC Senate 09/18/2023. Discussed at 09/22/2025 USC Meeting. Transmitted to UIC and UIS for input 10/10/2025 for input requested by 04/15/2026. Input received from UIC Senate 03/13/2026 sent to SGC.

Status: Input is needed from UIS Senate.

- h. ST-94: Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article II, Section 3 – Faculty Role in Governance, Article, IX, Section 3.c

Status: Item referred to SGC 12/04/2025

XV. Updates from Standing Committees

- a. Academic Affairs and Research (AARC)
Professor Clancy mentioned the committee has been focusing on preparing the proposal for the symposia and also discussing potential slides for the upcoming presentation to the BOT.

Professor De Groot requested more information be shared at the next USC Meeting on the plan for the presentation.

b. Finance, Budget, and Benefits (FBBC)

Professor Lyons shared that FBBC met with CFO Ellinger today covering 7 topics:

- i. International enrollment trends on the percentages with the student declines in international enrollment
- ii. Budget Model and Mitigation strategies
- iii. Capital renewal and deferred maintenance
- iv. UIS operating deficit
- v. ICR Planning (related to the F.A.I.R. Model)
- vi. Compensation Competitiveness
- vii. State Appropriations

Professor Lyons will inquire with CFO Ellinger about a copy of the presentation.

c. Statutes and Governance (SGC)

Professor Floros mentioned that SGC is moving forward slowly on ST-83 revisions, have a plan going forward and are dedicated to getting the work completed as expeditiously as coordinating work across three universities can happen.

XVI. Updates and Senate Priorities from each University

a. University of Illinois Chicago

Professor De Groot mentioned there is currently a voluntary separation program for staff and faculty. Only certain colleges are participating. If a person retires, they cannot return for a period of three years.

b. University of Illinois Springfield

Professor Mi mentioned UIS has a similar voluntary separation program.

Professor Clancy departed the meeting at 3:54 p.m.

c. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Professor Lyons reported there is a big push to better communicate with the Units. Professor Tolliver is serving on the Senate Review Commission.

XVII. Report on the President's Alliance for Higher Education (Schwinn)

Professor Schwinn shared that regulations are coming out in the next couple of months that will limit the duration of status for international students to four years. It's not clear what the effect will be, but something to keep an eye on.

Another topic to keep an eye on is that two weeks ago the Fourth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling that struck the February Dear Colleague Letter dealing with DEI issues from the U.S. Department of Education. Today another federal court dismissed a case with the U.S. Department of Education's agreement not to enforce

its Dear Colleague letter anywhere in an aid or enforcement of Title VI. It is not clear what that means or if they will utilize other tools to still enforce Title VI in other ways.

XVIII. President's Executive Leadership Program (Moorhouse)

Professor Moorhouse mentioned the next meeting is March 2-3 in Springfield.

XIX. Updates from External Groups with USC Representation

a. Digital Risk Council (Fisher)

No report.

b. Enrollment Management Policy Council (Wink)

Professor Wink reported there had not been a recent meeting.

Professor Wink provided an update on the DPI Executive Committee which held a meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to let the EC know they should be advising on what UIUC should do. Professor Wink indicated that the EC would like to know what is happening with all of the good work that DPI had been doing that was not retained. The new director Gene Robinson listened intently. There may be one more meeting.

c. Research Misconduct in Prior Employment Committee (Tolliver)

Professor Tolliver reported that the committee continues to meet.

d. Review of Policy for Awarding of Emeritus/Emerita Status (De Groote)

Professor De Groote reported that a meeting is being held next week.

e. System HR Committee to review the UI System Policy on Background Checks (Schwinn)

No update.

f. System Research Integrity Policy Committee (Danziger)

Professor Danziger advised the committee is waiting on feedback from the senates.

g. System-wide Data Strategy Advisory Group (Clancy)

No report.

h. System-wide Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Council (Moorhouse)

Professor Moorhouse shared that all three subcommittees submitted reports and recommendations. The council is waiting for the incoming response.

i. U of I System AI Exchange (Maher)

Professor Maher mentioned a draft is circulating on the AI Guidance Framework document. Some progress has been made on the definition of what they mean for AI. The next meeting is planned in March.

- j. University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council (Lyons)
Professor Lyons reported that the next meeting is in July.

XX. New Business
None

XXI. Closing remarks from the USC Chair
Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to everyone for attending. Professor Fisher will chair the next USC Meeting at UIC on March 24.

XXII. Adjournment – Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at UIC. The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

David Perryn
USC Administration