

MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: March 6, 2025

PLACE: University of Illinois Springfield Field Station

PRESENT: Campbell, De Groote (online), Dunning (online), Erricolo (online), Fisher, Floros, Hale, Jenkins (Chair), Kalita (online), Lyons, Maher, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Symes (online), Tolliver, Wink

Online: De Groote, Dunning, Erricolo, Kalita, Symes

ABSENT: Danziger, Hobbs, Leff, Sharma

GUESTS: Timothy Killeen, Nicholas Jones

I. Call to Order

Professor Jenkins called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Mr. Perryn called the roll.

Members physically present: Campbell, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Jenkins (Chair), Lyons, Maher, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Tolliver, Wink

Online: De Groote, Dunning, Erricolo, Kalita, Symes

III. Approval of remote participation

A motion was made by Moorhouse and seconded by Fisher to allow those attending via Zoom (De Groote, Dunning, Erricolo, Kalita, Sharma, Symes) to vote and participate in the meeting. No discussion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.

Yes: Campbell, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Jenkins (Chair), Lyons, Maher, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Tolliver, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Approval of the minutes February 6, 2025

Professor Moorhouse made a motion to approve the minutes from February 6, 2025.

Professor Hale seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Yes: Campbell, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Jenkins (Chair), Lyons, Maher, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Tolliver, Wink

Online: Dunning, Erricolo, Kalita, Symes

No: None
Abstain: None

VI. Remarks from USC Chair

Professor Jenkins spoke about the upcoming spring break and requested that everyone take care of themselves and focus on the needs of their students. He encouraged everyone to communicate with each other as much as possible, providing support where it is needed.

VII. Meeting with President Killeen and Executive Vice President Jones

President Killeen spoke about the changing landscape due to the Executive Orders. He just returned from spending time in D.C. meeting with the bi-partisan federal delegation of Illinois. The focus will continue to be on the land grant mission, guiding principles, providing a world class education to students, creating and disseminating new knowledge, solving problems in society, and economic prosperity.

He spoke about the time spent in meetings in Springfield. There is clear support for the University of Illinois. He believes higher education will receive a 3% increase in the state budget.

President Killeen spoke about the University of Illinois being a desirable destination for students. The search for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Chancellor is generating interest of faculty. There is the potential reduction in funding, due to the proposed reduction of Indirect Costs from NIH (National Institutes of Health).

EVP Jones encouraged everyone to be patient and stay calm while waiting to find out all the changes. Regarding Title IX, the process of updating to the 2024 version is complete. More recently, the direction was given to return to the 2020 version.

EVP Jones referenced a memo sent to Higher Education and K-12 Schools dated March 5, 2025, from the Attorney General in Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and the District of Columbia. He read the following aloud:

“Educational institutions should continue to foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility among their student bodies. The USED’s February 14 “Dear Colleague” letter and February 28 FAQ correctly identify federal civil rights laws that apply to IHEs and K-12 schools. The documents then, however, misconstrue Supreme Court precedent, wrongly imply that it might be unlawful for schools to consider the impact of policies and practices on diversity, and create a misimpression of the impact of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility programming and its legality. To be clear, *nothing* in the “Dear Colleague” letter or FAQ changes existing law and well-established legal principles that encourage—and even require—schools to promote educational opportunity for students of all backgrounds. The President cannot change longstanding legal

precedent by executive order,⁴ and a Dear Colleague letter and FAQ document certainly cannot do so.⁵ The “Dear Colleague” letter has inspired fear, and the Attorneys General write to mitigate that fear.

President Killeen reported that the university consistently graduated a more diverse student population than ever before.

Professor Jenkins spoke about the recent USC review of the DPI Steering Committee Report and the synthesized feedback from USC sent to President Killeen. President Killeen spoke about the significant return on DPI, partnerships formed and Sheild Illinois.

President Killeen provided insight on the DPI North and South. In downtown Chicago, the building occupancy rate is around 35%. Due to this, DPI North will be the acquisition of an existing building in the loop instead of a building in the 78. DPI South will be built. It will take two years to build IQMP. The Quantum Facility has interactions with 50-70 companies. The shared user facility will be called the National Quantum Facility. Another facility will be the National Quantum Algorithm Facility that IBM will populate. IBM will have 25 people working at DPI on the first round of National Center for Quantum Algorithm.

USC expressed concern about DPI messaging being inconsistent. President Killeen responded that DPI’s mission, vision and values are now intact. He spoke about the ROI of system commitments made to DPI which have had significant returns on investment. Besides financial benefit, many professors are participating. The State of Illinois just asked DPI to help with correctional facility healthcare delivery. The wastewater program built at DPI is the best in the nation.

USC expressed concern since the steering report focuses on technology, leaving out Arts & Humanities which was part of the original vision of DPI.

USC expressed the concern over DPI being operated by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. President Killeen recognized DPI would remain a System Entity, still offering opportunities for UIC and UIS.

Professor Jenkins encouraged leadership and the steering committee to add more steps to the process for DPI, finding language that is inclusive of all three universities.

President Killeen acknowledged that there are many stakeholders. The University of Illinois System is responding to the needs and wants of the State of Illinois. He also noted that there would be an implementation period that he and USC would have a vote. This is a time of change in federal and state agencies. The state needs a master plan for education. Illinois is not growing fast enough.

USC inquired about the timeline. President Killeen spoke about the importance of letting the Governor know this will happen. The BOT is appointed by the Governor to serve the people of Illinois. For various reasons, the BOT does not feel like shared governance is

working optimally. There is a deadline for real estate. \$195 million will go away if it is not utilized. \$500 million was for the IQMP. This was given to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, not the System. Engaging is important and so is delivery.

USC inquired about small meetings with BOT and USC Members. President Killeen reported that there would need to be several. Professor Jenkins reported that these would be small group lunches.

Professor Jenkins inquired about the AARC Mini-conferences proposal. EVP Jones supports the idea and inquired if there was financial support being requested. Professor Jenkins confirmed this and administrative support. EVP Jones inquired if the Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) already convene this across the institutions. Professor Jenkins reported that national and international conferences from outside are hosted, but to his knowledge they are not. EVP Jones plans to inquire with the VCR at each university. President Killeen mentioned that there would be a hiring chill coming up.

President Killeen expressed appreciation to USC for their input.

Professor Jenkins expressed appreciation to President Killeen and EVP Jones for attending and engaging.

Professor Fisher departed at 12:19 p.m. Meeting lost physical quorum at 12:19 p.m.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:24 p.m.

VIII. Committee Meetings (AARC, FBBC, SGC) – 1:00 p.m.

Committee meetings were held from 1:15 p.m. to 1:26 p.m.

The regular meeting resumed at 1:41 p.m. without a physical quorum.

Professor Hale departed at 1:41 p.m. Professor Fisher returned at 1:46 p.m.

Members physically present: Campbell, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Jenkins (Chair), Lyons, Maher, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Tolliver, Wink

Online: De Groote, Dunning, Erricolo

IX. 2026 USC Nominating Committee appointment by Chair (USC Bylaws 4.3.1)

Professor Jenkins appointed Professor Tolliver (UIUC) chair the USC Nominating Committee; and Professor Danziger (UIC) and Professor Fisher (UIS) to serve.

Professor Jenkins acknowledged that the meeting lost quorum at the end of the morning session, indicating no further business could be conducted. A discussion was held. The April and May meetings will begin at 9:45 a.m. with action items at the beginning of the

meeting before meeting with the President at 10:00 a.m.

X. Classification of Senate Minutes – 1:50 p.m.

- a. UIC: None
- b. UIS: February 21, 2025
- c. UIUC: February 10, 2025

Classification of Senate Minutes were deferred due to lack of physical quorum. The items will appear on the next meeting agenda, April 8, 2025.

XI. Today's Business – Discussion

- a. USC response to guest presentations
Professor Jenkins requested input on the morning presentation. USC inquired about the real estate purchase for DPI North and reasoning. USC also discussed shared governance and the need for shared governance structure within DPI.
- b. AARC: Mini-conferences
Professor Jenkins mentioned that EVP Jones will be reaching out to the Vice Chancellor for Research at each University. Professor Schwinn will report back to AARC.

XII. Today's Business – Action Items

- a. Select the USC Nominating Committee
The USC Chair appointed the nominating committee earlier in the meeting.
- b. ST-91: Request from UIC to move forward
Professor Jenkins held a brief discussion with USC. This item will be on the April 8 agenda.
- c. Determine USC Presenters and Observers for Board of Trustees Meetings

Date	Location	Presenter		Observer	From
03/20/2025	Springfield	Moorhouse		Dunning	Springfield
05/22/2025	Urbana	Tolliver		Hale	Urbana
07/24/2025	Chicago	Jenkins		De Groote	Chicago

XIII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

- a. 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.

- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. SI-1. Updates from each University
 - i. University of Illinois Chicago
Professor Floros reported that the Senate is moving forward with ST-83 feedback and fully intends to meet the May 15, 2025, deadline.
 - ii. University of Illinois Springfield
Professor Fisher reported that the Senate is moving forward with ST-83 feedback and fully intends to meet the May 25, 2025, deadline.
 - iii. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Professor Lyons reported that faculty have raised concerns on the Executive Orders' impact on federal funding and DEI initiatives. Proposals are being received for new online degree programs. There is an effort to reduce the language requirements for courses from three to two.
- g. SI-2. Updates from Standing Committees
 - i. Academic Affairs and Research (AARC).
None

- ii. Finance, Budget, and Benefits (FBBC)
None
- iii. Statutes and Governance (SGC)
None
- h. SI-3. Updates from External Groups with USC Representation
 - i. Data Strategy System-wide Task Force (Campbell)
Professor Campbell stated that he believed the Data Strategy System-wide Task Force would disappear since the work was completed.
 - ii. Digital Risk Council (Campbell)
Professor Campbell reported that the Cyber Breach Insurance was renewed.
 - iii. Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee
No report.
 - iv. Enrollment Management Policy Council
No report.
 - v. President's Executive Leadership Program
Professor Jenkins shared insight on his recent trip to Springfield earlier this week. He highlighted a tour of the capital and the Lincoln Museum. PELP has been a great experience. The next PELP Event will be in D.C.
 - vi. System Research Integrity Policy Committee
No report.
 - vii. System Task Force on Online Strategy
Professor Campbell reported that the committee had issued their report and that the work was complete.
 - viii. System-wide Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Council
Professor Moorhouse reported that the full council met over Zoom on February 25. The meeting focused on two topics.
 - 1. Reports from the subcommittees:
 - a. Training & Prevention (D. Kamm & K. Umland, co-chairs)
 - b. Culture Change (C. Bills-Windt & S. Reynolds, co-chairs)
 - c. Standard Definitions (Alejandro Gomez & Sarah McPhee, co-chairs)
 - 2. Discussion on the status of Title IX Changes & Implications (S. McPhee)
 - ix. University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council (Lyons)
No update.

- ii. Workplace Behavior Policy
No update.

XIV. Adjournment – Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at UIC.
The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

David Perryn
USC Administration