

MINUTES  
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: June 25, 2025

PLACE: I Hotel & Conference Center, Lincoln Room, 1900 S 1<sup>st</sup> St., Champaign, IL

PRESENT: Campbell, Danziger (online), De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Hobbs, Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Tolliver, Wink

Incoming USC Members attending: Barnwell (online), Clancy, Roseman

ABSENT: Sharma, Symes

GUESTS: Timothy Killeen, Nicholas Jones, Robert Jones

I. Call to Order and Welcome from Chair to incoming USC Members

Professor Jenkins called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Mr. Perryn called the roll. Quorum: Yes

Members physically present: Campbell, De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Hobbs, Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Tolliver, Wink

III. Approval of remote participation

Professor Floros made a motion for approval of remote participation from USC Members physically present to allow those attending via Zoom (Danziger, Symes) to vote and participate in the meeting. Professor Moorhouse seconded the motion. No discussion. A roll call vote was taken by members in the room. Motion passed.

Yes: Campbell, De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Hobbs, Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Tolliver, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Approval of the minutes May 28, 2025

Professor Tolliver made a motion to approve the minutes from May 28, 2025. 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. Motion passed.

Yes: Campbell, De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Hobbs, Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Tolliver, Wink

Online: Danziger

No: None

Abstain: None

VI. Classification of Senate Minutes

None

VII. NC-2026 USC Nominating Committee Remarks

Professor Tolliver expressed appreciation for everyone responding to their inquiries for input. Professor Jenkins mentioned that voting will occur at the USC Organizational Meeting being held tomorrow morning.

VIII. Today's Business – Action Items

- a. Determine USC Presenters and Observers for Board of Trustees Meetings

Professor Jenkins spoke about the excellent opportunity for USC to engage with the BOT through the presentations. In September, the new USC Chair will present. USC will need an observer. Professor Jenkins encouraged USC to volunteer as an observer or presenter. It has been past practice for each committee to present on a topic. He noted that the presentation title is due six weeks prior to the meeting advance and the presentation is due a month before.

Date	Location	Presenter	Observer	From
07/17/2025	Chicago	Jenkins	De Groote	Chicago
09/18/2025	Urbana	De Groote	UIUC	Urbana
11/13/2025	Chicago		UIC	Chicago
01/15/2026	Chicago		UIC	Chicago
03/19/2026	Springfield		UIS	Springfield
05/21/2026	Urbana		UIUC	Urbana
07/16/2026	Urbana	De Groote	UIUC	Urbana

Introductions were made around the room and online.

IX. Today's Business – Discussion

- a. USC *Bylaws* update on USC Presentations to the Board of Trustees

Professor De Groote mentioned that the proposed update to the USC *Bylaws* is more acknowledging a discussion will occur as the group. It will be voted on at the August 21, 2025, USC Meeting. Questions should be directed to Professor De Groote.

X. Updates from each University

- a. University of Illinois Chicago

Professor De Groote reported that Provost Colley will be retiring.

- b. University of Illinois Springfield

Professor Fisher reported on the status of the academic portfolio review process. A dashboard with a variety of indicators including enrollment and cost was

developed by a faculty committee. The data has been generated and sent to department chairs, for review. There are three groups (enhance, sustain or sunset) that will be driven by the data. The results will be sent to the departments around Labor Day. They will have the fall semester to respond. Other universities are adopting a similar program.

USC inquired about the involvement of shared governance in the process. Professor Fisher reported that it was discussed many times with the Senate Executive Committee.

c. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Professor Hale reported that the Senate has not met since May. There is anticipation about what is occurring in the world and the new Chancellor joining UIUC this summer.

XI. Remarks from USC Chair

Introductions were made.

Professor Jenkins acknowledged the challenges over the past few months. He encouraged USC to continue to put one foot in front of the other. Reflecting on his time with USC, it was a wonderful experience. He appreciates how much he has learned about this great university and how the UI System works. He hopes to be able to share that as he thinks about the future of higher education.

XII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

Old Business will be discussed on June 26.

- 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. Feedback received from UIC, UIS, and UIUC Senates has been referred to the USC Statutes and Governance Committee 05/09/2025.
- 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. Transmitted ST-90 to UIS and UIUC Senate for input 04/23/2025.
- 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. Transmitted ST-91 to UIS and UIUC Senate for input 04/23/2025.

XIII. Meeting with Chancellor Jones

Chancellor Jones expressed his joy reflecting back on his time at UIUC the last nine years. Chancellor Jones said it was an honor and a pleasure to spend time with USC. He appreciates his team and their hard work, hoping to have left UIUC and the UI System better than they found it.

Chancellor Jones also spoke about the honor he had to help shape the process for the person stepping into the leadership role as the Chancellor Designate on July 16, and as full Chancellor on August 1. He expects Chancellor Isbell to take UIUC to the next level.

There were many Executive Orders issued and he conveyed that his team has spent an enormous amount of time fighting them. They have had to litigate the four major funding agencies. F&A rates are also a concern if they are reduced. The negotiated rate and realistic rate are never the same. They are trying hard to cover the indirect cost.

UIUC was one of the first 37 land grant universities created. UIUC has a mission to be anywhere in the state where services are needed. There is effort being made not to establish another campus.

USC inquired about DPI. Chancellor Jones suggested rethinking the collective of the three institutions. Some are holding onto the old model of the Executive Committee. As a whole, he said “we need to figure this one (DPI) out.” The original vision secured the funding. There is room for everyone at the table, but UIUC has been asked to lead it.

Chancellor Jones also spoke about the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN) which was created to bring the other public institutions together.

Meeting recessed at 5:45 p.m. and will resume June 26, at 9:45 a.m.

XIV. Committee Meetings (AARC, FBBC, SGC) – 8:00 a.m.

Committee meetings were held from 8:04 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

XV. Organizational Meeting – 9:05 a.m. (conclude by 9:40 a.m.)

The annual USC Organizational Meeting was held from 9:10 a.m. to 9:57 a.m.

XVI. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:57 a.m. on June 26, 2025.

XVII. Roll Call

Mr. Perryn called the roll. Quorum: Yes

Members physically present: Campbell, De Groote, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Hobbs,  
Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse,  
Schwinn, Tolliver, Wink

Guest: President Killeen, EVP Jones, Charles Roseman

XVIII. Approval of remote participation

Professor Floros made a motion for approval of remote participation from USC Members physically present to allow those attending via Zoom (Danziger, Erricolo) to vote and participate in the meeting. Professor Moorhouse seconded the motion. No discussion. A roll call vote was taken by members in the room. Motion passed.

Yes: Campbell, De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Hobbs, Jenkins,  
Kalita, Leff, Lyons, Mi, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

Member attending online: Danziger

Allow remote participation for incoming USC Members (Barnwell, Carmichael,  
Herrera)

Yes: Campbell, De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Hobbs, Jenkins,  
Kalita, Leff, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Tolliver, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

Incoming Member attending online: Barnwell

XIX. Updates from Standing Committees

a. Academic Affairs and Research (AARC)

Professor Schwinn reported on the discussion of mini conferences. The most likely location is UIS. AARC is hopeful of a call for proposals to be out in the

fall with the conferences scheduled for next spring. There was discussion about potentially merging this with a Data Management Conference. There are questions to be asked for the group and UI System Leadership pertaining to funding and support.

b. Finance, Budget, and Benefits (FBBC)

Professor Campbell mentioned the interest in FBBC meeting with Kelvin Droegemeier to determine the issues. There is also the uncertainty of grant funding. Should this be part of the budget bootcamp?

c. Statutes and Governance (SGC)

Professor De Groote mentioned that Mr. Perryn advised the USC *Bylaws* need to be updated to remove the word “secret” pertaining to voting. The Open Meetings Act requires the public be able to determine what action was taken by the public body. A written ballot is acceptable. SGC will send Mr. Perryn the amendment along with other proposed changes to the bylaws that were previously proposed.

SGC has completed the spreadsheet that brings the feedback together from each university on ST-83. The next step will be for the big group and others in the UI System Office to review changes and then it will be taken back to the senates.

XX. Updates from External Groups with USC Representation

a. AI Standing Governance Group

Note: Future meeting materials will reflect the name of “U of I System AI Exchange” for this group.

Professor Maher attended a meeting online in early June. The group has at least 28 people serving with the plan for one year with a five-year target on it with quarterly meetings.

b. Digital Risk Council (Campbell)

No meeting.

c. Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee (Jenkins/Wink)

Professor Jenkins mentioned that there is discussion about the structure of DPI. The current DPI Executive Committee last met in June 2025.

d. Enrollment Management Policy Council

Professor Leff provided the following report via email: Enrollment Management met in the fall on enrollment figures and in the spring on the equitable funding, an initiative that will continue in the fall session of the Illinois legislature. (HB 1581 and SB0013) Commission on Equitable Funding for Illinois Public Universities established by the Legislature in 2021 with a major emphasis on supporting underserved students.

At the May Enrollment Management meeting, Renee Jean Nagy, Office of

Planning and Budgeting for the UI System, gave an analysis of the state funding for higher education, the “adequacy gap” and how is it measured and impact on public higher education institutions under various scenarios for equitable funding. The analysis includes detailed assessments for individual institutions. Mr. Perryn forwarded the slide presentation titled “Overview of the Adequacy Funding Model” to USC. Professor Leff reported that the presentation is so dense and detailed as to defy summary. It was suggested that USC Members hold onto the presentation for further review, since both USC and the individual senates will most likely be revisiting this year’s discussions on this issue in the fall.

Professor Leff stated that she knows there is not a need to remind anyone of the continuous and varied concerns raised about the funding formulae, but what providing this information to let USC see some of the data that the various entities are working with.

Also helpful is the material of the Equitable Funding Commission on the website of the Illinois Board of Higher Education: <https://www.ibhe.org/Commission-on-Equitable-Public-University-Funding.html>

- e. President’s Executive Leadership Program  
Professor Jenkins shared that PELP was a truly amazing experience.
- f. Research Misconduct in Prior Employment Committee (Tolliver)  
Professor Tolliver indicated there will be a meeting next week.
- g. System Research Integrity Policy Committee (Danziger)  
Professor Danziger advised the committee regularly meets and is making edits.
- h. System-wide Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Council (Moorhouse)  
No report.
- i. University of Illinois System President’s Advisory Council (Lyons)  
No update.
- j. Workplace Behavior Policy (Tolliver)  
Professor Tolliver indicated this is still on hiatus.

XXI. Meeting with President Killeen and EVP Jones

Professor Jenkins welcomed President Killeen and EVP Jones to the meeting.

President Killeen expressed appreciation to USC for the event held last night for outgoing Chancellor Robert Jones. Chancellor Designate Isbell will start July 16 and as Chancellor August 1. The caliber of candidates was extraordinary.

President Killeen expressed appreciation to USC for their efforts this year. While the state budget is not what was asked for, there was still an increase in funding for higher

education. The SRI Congress was held last week in Chicago and was well attended.

There will be a BOT Retreat next month. The current and incoming SEC Chair from each university will be invited for a high-level discussion.

President Killeen mentioned that the current thoughts are on budget impacts and the plus 1% salary program. Hopefully next year will be better. 239 million dollars of grants have been terminated from 19 agencies. Concerns are still present over the overhead reduction.

President Killen noted that the potential budget impact is significant. The mission is unchanging. Students are concerned. Fewer young people having opportunities to participate in research is of concern this year.

EVP Jones provided an update on the proposed equitable funding bill indicating there is concern if implemented as proposed. The UI System hosts 53% of Illinois Students and receives about 51% of the appropriation. With the legislation in the first year, the System would get 28%. The System did oppose. EVP Jones and Chancellor Jones both testified against it in Springfield.

Professor Hale left the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

A question was raised about an ICE appearance on campus. President Killeen assured USC there had not been a visit by ICE.

Professor Jenkins expressed appreciation to President Killeen and EVP Jones for attending. The meeting recessed at 11:51 a.m. and resumed at 12:45 p.m.

## XXII. Meeting with Dean Bashir

Professor Jenkins welcomed Rashid Bashir, Dean of the Grainger College of Engineering; Dr. Susan Martinis, Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation; and EVP Jones to the meeting.

Dean Bashir has been with UIUC for 18 years. He extended the offer to meet with USC in the future. With the support of the BOT, President Killeen, and Chancellor Jones, an MOU was signed to manage DPI by UIUC. The place-based center in Chicago focuses on the future of computing. Intellectual focus is important. IQMP is a major project in Chicago that UIUC is leading and managing. The idea is to align DPI and IQMP. Quantum and Micro Electronics and AI.

Dean Bashir will send the charge letter forward with five subcommittees. There is a joint effort with members from UIC, UIS, UIUC, and the UI System. The final report for implementation is planned for the end of July.

The intent is to form two advisory committees. Currently the committee is the Executive Committee of DPI. It should be elected with some of the members of DPI. Dean Bashir



asked for patience and advice giving up some time so people are engaged. There is also a need to update the *DPI Bylaws*. The second committee will be the Chicagoland Advisory Committee.

UIUC is fully committed to involve UIC and UIS. It must be done in a way that the focus is clear. The budget will drop from 9.5 million to 2 million in 5 years. DPI has to be financially viable. There will be negotiations to work through the details with the System, UIUC Chancellor and Provost, to at least cover the cost or part of the facilities.

It will be important to generate new resources. Faculty governance is critical and inspiring them is important. Dean Bashir spends a lot of his time looking for opportunities.

USC asked how Dean Bashir envisions UIC and UIS being involved? He responded that they would have calls for engagement from all three campuses.

When USC inquired about his thoughts on the proposed shared governance model, Dean Bashir indicated this is covered in the MOU with the advisory committee and members from the three universities.

USC expressed interest in the first ninety days. Dean Bashir mentioned the deep dive on research at DPI as well as the educational piece. There is also the need to understand internal and external funding, along with alignment in the future. Dean Bashir recommends not putting forth a proposal based on the old structure, but instead writing a proposal for the new structure. Some grants are partially funded. There are jobs involved. It will be important to find positions on campus. There is a need to downscale the institute, and the team is already thinking through this. In consideration of growth, there is a push toward industry partnership and new industry opportunities aligned with Chicago and philanthropy. The implementation Plan will be submitted to President Killeen within the next 90 days.

USC inquired about the new proposal going through the Senates to establish an institute. Dean Bashir would like input for the new institute. The budget has been agreed upon by President Killeen and Chancellor Jones. It will be either a proposal for a new institute with temporary status or an extension of the current. If everything is working in 3-5 years, then there will be the ask for permanent status.

EVP Jones mentioned that IBHE has been kept informed of the pending changes and asking for their forbearance. There was a deadline in August to get a proposal to IBHE. They will give an extension if asked. There is work being conducted to develop a proposal by the implementation team.

Professor Jenkins expressed appreciation to Dean Bashir, Dr. Martinis and EVP Jones for attending.

### XXIII. Today's Business – Discussion

- a. USC response to guest presentations  
USC discussed DPI and the presentation by Dean Bashir.
- b. AARC: Mini conferences  
Professor Schwinn reported that AARC is considering three ideas for the AARC Mini-conferences:
  - 1) AI
  - 2) What's new in your field?
  - 3) Community Engagement

AARC is leaning toward AI or Community Engagement for the first mini-conference. AARC would like to send the call for proposals in the early Fall Semester and host the conference in the Spring Semester at UIS.

AARC indicated the need to ask if the UI System has financial and human resources to help AARC organize this. Professor Campbell will send Professor Schwinn information about the data-management conference, which has funding.

\*An item was transferred from the USC Organizational Meeting to the USC Meeting. The USC Nomination for the President's Executive Leadership Program (PELP) is due in order to meeting the program deadline.

Professor Jenkins opened the floor for nominations for PELP. Professor Moorhouse was nominated to represent USC in the President's Executive Leadership Program.

Professor Wink motioned to close the nominations and vote. Professor Fisher seconded. No discussion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed.

Yes: Campbell, De Groote, Fisher, Floros, Kalita, Jenkins, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Schwinn, Tolliver, Wink

No: None

Abstain: Moorhouse

Professor Tolliver presented a service plaque to Professor Jenkins. Mr. Perryn presented a service plaque to Professor Campbell and the engraved gavel to Professor Jenkins.

XXIV. Closing remarks from the USC Chair:

Professor Jenkins wished everyone the best in the next academic year.

XXV. Adjournment – Next Meeting: Thursday, August 21, 2025, at UIUC.

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

David Perryn  
USC Administration