

MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: August 21, 2025

PLACE: The President's House, 711 W Florida, Urbana, IL

PRESENT: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, Danziger (online), De Groote (Chair), Erricolo, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Herrera, Kalita, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Wink

ABSENT: Symes, Tolliver

GUESTS: Timothy Killeen, Nicholas Jones

I. Call to Order

Professor De Groote called the meeting to order at 9:48 a.m.

II. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor De Groote welcomed USC to the 2025-2026 academic year. Introductions were made. Professor De Groote encouraged USC to present a topic on behalf of USC or a standing committee to the BOT. There will be an opportunity to sign-up later in the meeting. The start time of the USC Meeting will change to 10:00 a.m. with the first 15 minutes devoted to USC business items. The session with the President and EVP will begin at 10:15 a.m.

III. Roll Call

Mr. Perryn called the roll. Quorum: Yes

Members physically present: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, De Groote (Chair), Erricolo, Fisher, Floros, Herrera, Kalita, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Wink

IV. Approval of remote participation

Professor De Groote made a motion for approval of remote participation from USC Members physically present to allow those attending via Zoom (Danziger) 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: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher, Floros, Herrera, Kalita, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Approval of the minutes June 25-26, 2025

Professor Moorhouse made a motion to approve the minutes as amended from June 25-26, 2025. Professor Barnwell 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: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher, Floros,
Herrera, Kalita, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn,
Wink

Online: None

No: None

Abstain: None

VII. Approval of the minutes from June 26 (2025-2026 Organizational Meeting)

Professor Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes as amended from June 26, 2025, Organizational Meeting. Professor Kalita 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: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher, Floros,
Herrera, Kalita, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn,
Wink

Online: None

No: None

Abstain: None

VIII. Classification of Senate Minutes

None

IX. Meeting with President Killeen and EVP Jones – 10:00

Professor De Groote welcomed President Killeen and EVP Jones to the meeting.

President Killeen provided a State of the System. There have not been massive challenges related to international students being able to attend. All three universities are up in enrollment. The official numbers will be out on the 10th day of class. It's important to note that there are enough beds for incoming students despite this increase in enrollment.

EVP Jones mentioned there has not been a summer melt. There will be a truer indication the first day of classes.

There are 5000 new freshmen at UIC due to the Aspire Program. UIS is also seeing an uptick in freshman. There are more first-time freshman at UIS than ever in the time President Killeen has been serving as the President.

President Killeen reported that the salary program was 1% this year built on state support. There is still strong alignment with the Governor's Office.

Philanthropy is strong, and the numbers will be released by the University of Illinois Foundation (UIF) in October.

The Governor's Office is concerned about what is happening nationally with Visa's being revoked and grants terminated.

USC expressed concern to President Killeen about federal funding reductions in research. One member mentioned being on one grant for their research, funded by NIH. There is the concern of financial strain. President Killeen understood the concern and also mentioned that reductions in research funding can impact opportunities for young people. President Killeen conveyed the importance of being realistic about assurance since there is not an endless supply of funding. He mentioned VP, CFO, and Comptroller Paul Ellinger is performing a liquidity study should there be an event. Will there be a way to at least preserve core facilities? There is an impact from the Big Beautiful Bill which eliminated 200 full-time employee positions across the state when SNAP Ed was eliminated. President Killeen reminded USC that there is opportunity to conduct more research and development in the corporate space.

President Killeen was asked if donor funds could be utilized. He responded that 90% of the funds are restricted.

Questions were raised about reciprocal tuition out of state. EVP Jones suggested that faculty make a pitch through their Office of the Provost. One member remarked that their department does not have endowment dollars to compete with Michigan or Indiana. States around Illinois offer in-state tuition to Illinois residents.

It is too early to know if there will be changes in enrollment based on the implications of the student loan changes. President Killeen mentioned that students of the UI System received over 100 million in loans in 2024.

President Killen spoke about the importance of ways to demonstrate the public good. This summer the UI System hosted the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress (SRI) and had 1700 attendees from all over the world. This is all about solutions and progress. The UI System was the solutions capital of planet earth due to the SRI Congress. The international strategy is working. The Brazilian Government will be sending 300 students covered by the Brazilian Government.

Professor Lyons joined the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

President Killeen mentioned the BOT Retreat indicating that shared governance is very important. Professor Lyons provided insight and expressed interest that the BOT is open to engagement. President Killeen remarked that Mr. Perryn is working on that with BOT Secretary Stein. This may be the time to think about adding new guiding principles.

President Killeen mentioned that the BOT Chair expressed interest in reinstating meals with USC representation.

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to President Killeen and EVP Jones for attending.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m.

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

The meeting resumed at 1:52 p.m.

PRESENT: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, Danziger (online), De Groote (Chair), Erricolo, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Herrera, Kalita, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Wink

ABSENT: Symes, Tolliver

XI. Today's Business – Discussion

a. USC Response to guest presentations

Professor De Groote opened the 15-minute discussion.

USC expressed concern on the loss of opportunity from faculty already with the university due to the international partnerships such as faculty from Jordan who could establish relationships with others in Jordan. How are the international relationships benefiting faculty? What is the process for faculty to provide input? How could faculty expertise be identified earlier in the process?

b. AARC mini conferences

Professor Clancy reported that AARC's goal is to convene faculty around major topics for discussion as there are opportunities around the universities for cross collaboration.

XII. Today's Business – Action Items

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

Each standing committee should select a date to present.

Professor De Groote requested volunteers encouraging each committee to consider appropriate topics for the USC presentations being made to the BOT.

Date	Location	Presenter	Observer	From
09/18/2025	Urbana	De Groote	Lyons	Urbana
11/13/2025	Chicago		Floros	Chicago
01/15/2026	Chicago		De Groote	Chicago
03/19/2026	Springfield		UIS	Springfield
05/21/2026	Urbana		UIUC	Urbana

07/16/2026	Urbana	De Groote		UIUC	Urbana
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Mr. Perryn will compile and circulate topics presented from the past three years to USC.

- b. Vote on the proposed USC *Bylaws* amendment on USC Presentations to the Board of Trustees, clarification of ballot, and to address typographical errors.

Professor De Groote provided background on the proposed changes. One change, removing the word “secret” and replacing it with “written” for ballots, brings the USC *Bylaws* current with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA). Professor Barnwell made a motion to approve proposed USC *Bylaws* amendment. Professor Fisher 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: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Herrera, Kalita, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Wink

Online: Danziger

No: None

Abstain: None:

- c. Determine USC Representation on other Programs & Committees

Professor De Groote expressed the importance of input from USC and offered the following opportunities to serve.

Name	Current/Previous	Proposed
U of I System AI Exchange	Maher	Maher
Research Misconduct in Prior Employment Group	Tolliver	Tolliver
System Research Integrity Policy Committee	Danziger	Danziger
System-wide Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Council	Moorhouse	Moorhouse
University of Illinois System President’s Advisory Council	Lyons	Lyons
Workplace Behavior Policy	Tolliver	Tolliver

Name	Current/Previous	Proposed
Digital Risk Council	Campbell	TBD Sept. 22
Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee (2)	Jenkins/Wink	Roseman/Wink

Enrollment Management Policy Council	Leff	TBD Sept. 22
System HR committee to review the UI System Policy on Background Checks	None	Schwinn

- d. Determine USC Retreat Topics and Sessions (October 15-16)
Professor De Groote provided insight on the upcoming USC Retreat and requested assistance from USC members to develop questions for the presentations.
 - i. Session #1 with VP Ellinger (Budget Q&A)
Professor Barnwell and Professor Floros will layout the expectations of what USC would like to learn.
 - ii. Session #2 with BOT Secretary Stein (BOT Q&A)
Professor De Groote, Professor Fisher and Professor Lyons will determine the outline and send to Mr. Perryn.
 - iii. Session #3 with Professor De Groote and Professor Tolliver (Shared Governance & USC Goals)
USC expressed interest in making USC Leadership be more visible.
- e. Suggest speakers for 2025-2026 USC Meetings
USC suggested
 - i. having the three finance experts (one from each university) present at the same meeting
 - ii. Someone that oversees student opportunities could present at another meeting
 - iii. Research administration could attend and explain how that works
 - iv. VP Nazon could attend during the session with the President
 - v. State and Federal Relations could present
 - vi. Head of the University of Illinois Foundation
 - vii. Holding conversations around investing
 - viii. Visa revocation issues

XIII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

USC held a discussion on the importance of moving the items forward after obtaining the input needed.

- 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.

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

- 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.

Status: Input is needed from UIC and UIS Senates.

- 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.

Status: Input is needed from UIC and UIS Senates.

- 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.

Status: Input is needed from UIS and UIUC Senates.

- 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.

Status: Input is needed from UIS and UIUC Senates.

XIV. Updates from Standing Committees

a. Academic Affairs and Research (AARC)

New Chair: Professor Clancy

Professor Clancy provided insight on the committee discussion of the work AARC should be performing, how to find ways to highlight the efforts, any core issues that need to be focused on and ways to help the BOT understand challenges and experiences of the value brought. There were 6000 Visa issues. There are concerns over impacts of the Big Beautiful Bill that will have future impacts on student loans inquired about the work AARC should be performing,

b. Finance, Budget, and Benefits (FBBC)

New Chair: Professor Lyons

Professor Lyons reported that FBBC will have a Strategic Planning session at the next meeting. The intent will be for the committee to work on a structure with Mr. Perryn to obtain more regular reports from the CFO. One area of focus FBBC will continue to work on is the Tier 2 retirement plan.

c. Statutes and Governance (SGC)

New Chair: Professor Fisher

Professor Fisher indicated that SGC plans to continue meeting in between SGC Meetings held days that USC meets. SGC has organized advise by article. There is discussion about the history of the charge to clarify the original scope and whether that are pieces that have gone beyond the original scope.

XV. Updates and Senate Priorities from each University

a. University of Illinois Chicago

Professor De Groote mentioned UIC will hold the first senate meeting soon. UIC will be opening the search for Provost. The current Provost will step down in June 2026.

b. University of Illinois Springfield

Professor Fisher mentioned the budget deficit. There is an expedited effort in the process of the deficit reduction plan. There is also an effort to articulate ways that the UI System can support the process.

c. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Professor Lyons spoke about the first shared governance leadership retreat on campus which included about 50 attendees. The retreat included staff from the Office of the Senate, the Strategic Communications Team, and Chancellor Isbell.

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

No report.

XVII. President's Executive Leadership Program (Moorhouse)

Professor Moorhouse mentioned that the first PELP Meeting will be in Chicago on Monday.

XVIII. Updates from External Groups with USC Representation

a. U of I System AI Exchange (Maher)

Professor Maher mentioned the exchange will meet four times a year. Each of the 30 members is going to present a single Power Point slide on work being conducted with AI. The question is how to involve shared governance in looking at any policy decision arising from this.

Professor Clancy mentioned a concern with how Canvas is using data. It is not clear if there is an NDA. Professor Clancy will share an article with more insight on this concern.

b. Digital Risk Council

No report due to USC Vacancy.

c. Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee (Wink)

Professor Wink shared that the implementation group went through a process thinking of what they would implement at DPI. This is moving forward.

d. Enrollment Management Policy Council

No report due to USC Vacancy.

e. Research Misconduct in Prior Employment Committee (Tolliver)

No report.

f. System Research Integrity Policy Committee (Danziger)

Professor Danziger reported that the federal government changed their research policy at the federal level. A policy will be sent to USC for review in the next couple of months. An interim policy will be sent for review.

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

Professor Moorhouse advised that the committee met on July 10. Brief reports were provided from the three subcommittees:

i. Subcommittee on Training and Prevention (D. Kamm & K. Umland)

Working on materials now.

ii. Subcommittee on Culture Change (C. Bills-Windt & S. Reynolds)

Continuing discussions.

iii. Subcommittee on Standard Definitions (S. McPhee & A. Gómez)

Working on solidifying basic definitions that are in agreement with language under the 2020 Title IX Rules.

a. University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council (Lyons)

Professor Lyons mentioned that the next meeting will be October 13-14 in

Chicago.

- b. Workplace Behavior Policy (Tolliver)
No report.

XIX. Closing remarks from the USC Chair

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to USC for their engagement.

- XX. Adjournment – Next Meeting: Monday, September 22, 2025, at UIS.
The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

David Perryn
USC Administration