

MINUTES  
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: October 15, 2025 – October 16, 2025

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

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

Online: Danziger

ABSENT: Erricolo, Roseman

GUESTS: Timothy Killeen, Nicholas Jones, Paul Ellinger, Jeffrey Stein

I. Call to Order

Professor De Groote called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation and delight to everyone attending the USC Retreat. The retreat will offer great guests, topics, and opportunities to ask questions.

III. Roll Call

Mr. Perryn called the roll. Quorum: Yes

Members physically present: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, De Groote (Chair), Fisher, Floros, Hale, Herrera, Kalita, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Symes, Tolliver, 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 Fisher seconded the motion. No discussion. A roll call vote was taken by members in the room. Motion passed.

Yes: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, De Groote (Chair), Fisher, Floros, Hale, Herrera, Kalita, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Symes, Tolliver, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Approval of the minutes September 22, 2025

Professor Floros made a motion to approve the minutes as amended from September 22, 2025. 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.

Yes: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, De Groote (Chair), Fisher, Floros, Hale,  
Herrera, Kalita, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Symes, Tolliver,  
Wink

Online: Danziger

No: None

Abstain: None

VII. Classification of Senate Minutes

Professor De Groote (Chair) made a motion to approve the Classification of Senate Minutes. 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.

Yes: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, De Groote (Chair), Fisher, Floros, Hale,  
Herrera, Kalita, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Symes, Tolliver,  
Wink

Online: Danziger

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: September 25, 2025

Class I

**PR-26.01**, Proposal to Revise the Minor in Nutrition

**PR-26.02**, Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Marketing by  
Eliminating the Concentration in Retail and Services Marketing;  
Renaming and Revising the Concentration in Innovation and Design  
Thinking and the Concentration in Digital Marketing and Promotions;  
and Revising the Concentration in Data-Driven Marketing

**PR-26.03**, Proposal to Revise the Minor in Leadership

**PR-26.04**, Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Education

Class cNusc:

The UIC Senate provided feedback about proposed revisions to the Procedures for Policy: #802 – Severe Sanctions Other Than Dismissal for Cause.

The UIC Senate endorsed proposed changes to the UIC Dean of Students' disciplinary processes.

b. UIS: September 26, 2025; October 10, 2025

September 26, 2025

Class III

**Resolution 55-03** Proposed Revisions to the Statutes [ST-87]

October 10, 2025

Class I

**Resolution 55-06** Eliminate the Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems, Healthcare Informatics Concentration

**Resolution 55-07** Eliminate Human Services Graduate certificates: Nursing Home Administration (online), Human Services Fundraising, and Gerontology (online)

**Resolution 55-08** Eliminate Human Services Graduate Concentrations and Sequence: Gerontology Concentration (on-ground), Gerontology Concentration (online), Nursing Home Administration Concentration (online), and Professional Development Sequence in Gerontology (on-ground)

c. UIUC: September 15, 2025

None

VIII. Meeting with President Killeen and EVP Jones – 10:15

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

President Killeen mentioned the strategic plan when he arrived in 2014 to get to 93,000 students. This academic year the University of Illinois System combined reached 101,000 students which is an increase of 25%. Transfer students increased by 4,500, which is up 10% since last year. This makes an all-time high.

President Killeen spoke about the recent State Tour that took place earlier this month. This effort helps to see what is occurring in the state, in Chicago, the suburbs, and also downstate. The tour included the Noble School System which sends about 350 students to the University of Illinois each year. The group learned that there are challenges with retention which is being looked at. The state tour also included a tour of UL Labs which is a large Chicago based employer with around 300 alumni working there. President Killeen recognized Professor De Groote for going on the State Tour.

Professor De Groote spoke about the terrific experience. The tour visited colleges and high schools. Students would normally transfer after two years at the local college. Hearing several students speak, it became clear that their desire was not to transfer, but instead to finish their degree in their community taking hybrid or online courses. One of the main reasons for this desire was their employment. Many already had jobs lined up after they graduated. Aside from that, there were concerns about being overwhelmed going to a larger university. Upon touring the manufacturing plants, workers were up front about their concern of AI replacing some jobs. The jobs that were there would still need skills, and critical thinking. It's not just about training them how to perform the job today, but also how to engage in lifelong learning to be able to continue to evolve and address issues.

President Killeen mentioned that the State Tour also included meeting with legislators from up and down the state, both red and blue, providing many perspectives. The tour also visited a family farm that has been passed down through multiple generations. They grew corn and soybean. President Killeen spoke about the farmers allowing the UI Extension to plant kale and turnips seeds using drone seeding along the edges of their farms to use in food pantries.

EVP Jones shared insight on the ways the UI System can partner with community colleges. The existing transfer model does not work for students who are place-based. There are a lot of students who would love to get a four-year degree. The UI System is looking at how to leverage technology to enhance the higher education experience through online and hybrid delivery.

President Killeen offered his input about the value of belonging within the university community. The UI System is thinking about future enrollment. Place based students

want to stay in their community to get their education and not leave their job.

President Killeen conveyed that AI is anxiety producing. There are studies that show too much immersion in AI reduces brain function. AI is a great new tool. There is a downside to overuse of screentime and overuse of AI that needs to be considered in curricular thinking moving forward, because it's a non-trivial kind of issue.

USC mentioned that growing an online program can cause a loss to on-ground growth. UIS is underenrolled and there is not enough funding to grow the on-ground program. There are not resources to pay faculty to do the additional work required for the hybrid classes which require one and a half the amount of work. Faculty need teaching assistance to run the sessions. There is also a required investment in setting up an online and on-ground class. There is heavy resistance in paying and acknowledging the extra work required.

President Killeen believes the challenge is that UIS is not well known among high school students and their counselors and suggested going to the high schools to talk with the counselors. He encouraged faculty to go on the road tours and visit the high schools to help get the word out about UIS.

EVP Jones mentioned the large online program at Penn State that was hugely successful, not taking anything away from the residential program. The challenge is getting to those students, having people who can facilitate online learning. There are students who actually do not have the confidence to sign up for an online degree completion program at the University of Illinois be it Springfield, Chicago, or Urbana-Champaign. Having people who can facilitate online learning is important, and it is important for the success of the programs. A well-designed program will generate revenue that can be used to provide the resources that are necessary for the successful delivery of the online program.

USC requested meaningful engagement without a filter to address the gap between what happens on paper and what faculty are experiencing at UIS.

President Killeen indicated there are opportunities with students from Proviso East High School and DRW Noble School in Chicago. Students from those schools talked a lot about UIC, but not UIS. If UIS could bring in students from there who were in a college prep setting, and have them retained, it would be incredibly important.

EVP Jones acknowledged that it sounds like there is a request to the UI System to help scale the online programs at UIS. The UI System will not be overbearing and is not going to get into the content business. The UI System wants to provide the infrastructure, support and resources, so the universities can fill the programs they would like through any of these modalities. EVP Jones provided insight on World Campus; the online program offered at Penn State. It's important to note the funding for this kind of program is one time funding, year over year. These resources can be used to hire more faculty. It's important to have the right academic business model to back it up, with the right incentives, checks and balances, controls and ownership.

USC mentioned the past challenges with Global Campus which included figuring out who would teach the classes. Part of the plan was to hire adjunct instructors to teach the courses but that did not happen. If the degree offered is a University of Illinois degree, then each campus is in control. More students mean hiring more faculty.

President Killeen mentioned that additional enrollment means additional tuition dollars are available for the provost to fund hiring more faculty. President Killeen indicated the need for a public higher education master plan for the whole state due to the demographic cliff. The demographic cliff looks to be 25% in the next ten years however it does not have to be an enrollment cliff. Instead, the focus could be about lifelong learning, and taking into account the apprenticeships working with companies previously mentioned, college preparation, and Illinois Virtual High School (IVHS) System which reached 2,000 learners this year. With the IVHS System, both credentialed and retired teachers were able to join teaching from their kitchens. With high schools that need these courses a moderator is paid for by the University of Illinois in the classroom setting. This program looks like it will enable courses to be taught across the state. The original approach was to perform an analysis of AP potential at high schools. The finding showed that half of the Illinois High Schools did not have anyone who could teach AP courses, which puts those students at a disadvantage. If more AP courses were taught in high schools, then there would be more students that were college ready. When the IVHS pilot was launched, the finding was that there was a need in schools for teaching Algebra 1.0, Algebra 2.0, English, and foreign languages. The schools needed help teaching basic courses, which is being provided rather than AP's. All 26 curricular entities are there in AP, but it hasn't been what the community needed and wanted urgently around the State of Illinois, it was the basic courses. Algebra 2.0 is a well-known throttle on college readiness, including retention.

President Killeen again referred to the need for a public higher education master plan for the State of Illinois. At some point, there will be some consolidation needed. While the UI System has seen gains in the state investment, there has also been the vulnerability on the federal side. Another 23 million dollars was wiped clean for Prairie Research Institute. The total federal dollars to the UI System is 800 million dollars a year. Currently the projected loss is around 250 to 280 million dollars perhaps over five years. It is serious and significant, and this will mean adjustments need to be made for it.

President Killeen acknowledged that there is some consolidation looming. The UI System is interested in K through lifelong learning. There are 2.1 million Illinois residents that have some college but no degree.

President Killeen spoke about challenges with the loss of 800 million dollars out of the budget which will mean fewer postdocs, grad students, etc. There are massive changes in the federal interface with higher education. The state is very supportive but there could be another election. The other challenges are rapidly changing technology and curricula.

USC inquired about being notified of rolling blackouts and brownouts in 2026 due to generative AI energy usage by data centers, but it was not clear if this was because of the

University of Illinois's full embrace of generative AI and data use, or whether this is about data centers that happen to be nearby using energy. Special consideration is being made to address this concern of crucial pieces of equipment in the lab that will need backup and generator support. President Killeen responded that the whole movement to data centers is really consumptive of energy. Offering the example of Nvidia stock which has an increasing price, it is clear that money is going into data centers and GPU's, which are proliferating faster than any system can actually accommodate the energy requirements. President Killeen suggested that this will hit a brick wall and would not advise people to invest in GPU's because there are not enough electrons in the electrical system to actually support all of the data centers that are funded and going up. If the UI System stopped using AI completely, there would still be brownouts because there is still the electrical consumption in data centers. President Killeen explained that this is one of the reasons UIUC is looking at micro vehicles that can be a response to that need.

EVP Jones also provided insight on the letter advising of brownouts and blackouts. Besides data centers, there is also usage of energy to charge electric cars. While the state has been aggressive in phasing out fossil fuels, the renewables are not replacing it at the same rate. Combining the investment in renewables and the drawdown in gas and coal-fired plants, then adding the expanded energy usage, the numbers do not add up, which is why there is this risk.

President Killeen shared that Illinois has a significant capacity for nuclear energy. The micronuclear technology is not huge like Chernobyl and other places. There is a proposal by faculty at UIUC to install a test reactor to, with appropriate approvals, etc. take on around 25% of UIUC's electrical needs. The company being partnered with in order to break even would need around 700 of these microreactors around. Potential uses would be for factories, cruise ships, campuses, etc.

USC inquired about the changes in DEI with regard to promotion & tenure. President Killeen reported that the UI System had to protect student financial aid. Outside legal council is advising, and a risk analysis is being conducted. There are legal challenges. Previously, there was not a UI System policy on financial aid. There is now a policy on financial aid that is an umbrella policy for all of the universities. It says that the UI System will not consider race or gender in the allocation of financial aid resources to students. EVP Jones indicated that in things like scholarships and hiring practices, there should be no language that puts a serious legal risk to the university.

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

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:25 p.m. and resumed at 1:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Barnwell, Carmichael, Clancy, De Groote, Fisher, Floros, Herrera, Kalita, Lyons, Mi, Moorhouse, Maher, Schwinn, Symes, Tolliver, Wink  
Online: Danziger

GUEST: Nicholas Jones

IX. Meeting with VP Ellinger – 1:00 p.m.

Professor De Groote welcomed VP Ellinger to the meeting. EVP Jones joined as well.

VP Ellinger is an Urbana faculty member with a background in commercial banking and financial planning. He has conducted banking with schools in the Canada, China, Europe, U.S., and so forth. Risk management and financial planning are big pieces of that. VP Ellinger served seven years on the Urbana (UIUC) as Chief Financial Officer and then transitioned to his current role four years ago as Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Comptroller for the UI System.

VP Ellinger spoke about the financial planning for three and five years out with UIC, UIS, and UIUC. EVP Jones has been involved in this endeavor as well. Their strategic plan needs to fit in with their budget. Each university determines how they allocate funds from tuition and state appropriation.

The Office of the CFO provides university-wide support in Accounting; AG Property Services; Benefits; Bursar; Business Services; Capital Financing; Cash Management; Capital Programs; Enterprise IT Systems; Government Costing; iCard; Investments; Merchant Card Services; Payables; Payroll; Procurement; Real Estate Services; Risk/Workers Comp; Tax; and Utilities.

VP Ellinger provided insight and an overview of the budget for the UI System, UIC, UI Health Hospital, UIS, and UIUC. It should be noted that the State of Illinois covers the employer portion of employee benefit costs.

USC inquired about operating with a deficit. VP Ellinger advised that if there is a deficit, there is a requirement to have a deficit reduction plan. The State of Illinois can inquire. The UI System is allowing UIS to have a noninterest loan on their deficit. There is discussion with Chancellor Gooch.

USC and Professor De Groote expressed appreciate to VP Ellinger and EVP Jones for the productive discussion and opportunity to learn.

A copy of the presentation and documents were provided to USC.

X. Meeting with BOT Secretary Stein

PRESENT: Barnwell, Clancy, De Groote, Fisher, Floros, Herrera, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Symes, Tolliver, Wink

Online: Carmichael, Danziger

GUESTS: Timothy Killeen, Nicholas Jones, Jeffrey Stein

Professor De Groote welcomed Secretary Stein to the meeting.



Secretary Stein expressed appreciation for being able to join the USC Meeting today to share information about the important work conducted by the Office of the Board of Trustees. Secretary Stein began attending UIUC at 18 obtaining his undergrad in biology. He obtained his master's degree and PhD from the College of ACES. He later inherited his research lab from his predecessor. His research focused mostly on research in fisheries ecology.

Secretary Stein began service in shared governance in the Council of Academic Professionals. He later served on USSP (University Statutes and Senate Procedures) which is a committee of the UIUC Senate.

As the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, and of the University, there are many facets of his role. He serves as a member of the President's Cabinet. Secretary Stein leads a team of seven, who support the Board of Trustees (BOT) in their work. The BOT meets six times per year. The BOT is structured into four committees: 1) Academic and Student Affairs; 2) Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities; 3) Governance, Personnel, and Ethics; 4) University Healthcare System

When a new trustee begins, they attend a substantial orientation. There is ongoing training. The Illinois Department of Higher Education requires four hours of training per year.

The Statutes (Article 13) guide how communication with the BOT is supposed to be handled. There is a chain of command structure. If the trustees have a question about a particular unit, the trustees are supposed to go to Secretary Stein. Members of the public can write letters to the BOT. There is also a public comment program.

USC inquired about the reason someone would want to serve on the BOT. Secretary Stein responded that the BOT he has seen is consistently uplifting the university as a whole. They celebrate the victories and want to help strategically craft the objectives. They are enthusiastically advocating, thinking and suggesting for the benefit of the institution.

Secretary Stein spoke about the public comment request process and how the submissions are reviewed since there is 30 minutes devoted to this portion of the meeting. A list of requests is developed prior to it being reviewed by legal counsel. When a person is chosen to present, they are notified prior to the meeting. The BOT receives a lot of requests for public comment.

Secretary Stein indicated that there is an effort to reinstate a meal with a small group, including a couple of USC members, on the Wednesday before the BOT Meetings.

Secretary Stein offered his email to USC in case they want to reach out.

Professor De Groote suggested that representatives from USC should attend the committee meetings held the Wednesday prior to the BOT Meeting.

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to BOT Secretary Stein for attending.

XI. Shared Governance with Professor De Groote and Professor Tolliver

Professor Tolliver mentioned that the principle Secretary Stein spoke about in general is to be mindful of the well-being and welfare of the institution. Professor Tolliver conveyed that in her opinion shared governance is essential to the maintenance of the institution's well-being and welfare. Professor Tolliver noted that the statutes require shared governance.

One example of this was when USC first began talking about DPI, which took place for at least a year. USC wrote the DPI Executive Committee *Bylaws*. This occurred because USC had the trust of people working on that. Then when the bylaws were not followed very well, USC followed up until there was a change.

When there is a system-wide committee, USC should have a voice. It's important to put the work in to provide input.

Professor De Groote suggested USC think about what can be done moving forward and what can be taken back to each university.

Professor Tolliver spoke about the importance of others knowing what shared governance is. There could be a need on each of the campuses to talk about what shared governance is and why it is relevant.

USC inquired about the appropriate mechanism that should be utilized when shared governance processes are not appropriately followed. Professor Tolliver suggested reading the statutes and department bylaws; request an appointment with the department head; and explain why it is very important to follow the processes without pointing fingers.

Is it important to have a shared governance bootcamp for campus-level administrative officers?

USC indicated it would be nice to have a refresher on the statutes and the bylaws. Professor De Groote indicated that this is something each member can take back to their senate to talk about where there is an expectation of consultation and also an expectation where it is strictly under the purview of the faculty and then there can be empowerment vs. more of that consultation expectation.

USC mentioned a previous document from the USC Website that explains what shared governance is: <https://www.usc.uillinois.edu/sites/usc.uillinois.edu/files/documents/OT-231SharedGov.pdf>

Professor Tolliver suggested USC consider shared governance at the departmental level as well.

The meeting recessed at 5:15 p.m.

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

Committee meetings were held from 7:38 a.m. to 9:05 a.m. Professor De Groote called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

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 (Carmichael, Danziger, Fisher, Symes) to vote and participate in the meeting. Professor Maher seconded the motion. No discussion. A roll call vote was taken by members in the room. Motion passed.

Yes: Clancy, De Groote (Chair), Floros, Herrera, Kalita, Lyons, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

PRESENT: Clancy, De Groote (Chair), Floros, Herrera, Kalita, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Wink

Online: Carmichael, Danziger

ABSENT: Barnwell, Erricolo, Fisher, Hale, Symes, Tolliver

GUESTS: Sarah Gantz, Jen Hardesty, Chris Lehmann

XIII. Meeting with Sarah Gantz, Jen Hardesty, and Chris Lehmann (Q&A on the Revised Policy on Integrity in Research and Scholarly Activities)

Professor De Groote welcomed AVP Gantz, Ms. Hardesty, and Mr. Lehmann to the meeting.

AVP Gantz provided background reasoning for the revision. There will be another opportunity to offer input. There was a final rule that was released in 2024 that provided final information, and some additional guidelines over the summer. That information was able to be incorporated into the revision that is being made to the policy. The revised policy will not be formally approved and through the shared governance process by the time it needs to be in effect, which is January 1, 2026. What is being proposed is that there will be the implementation of an interim policy starting January 1, 2026, based on the revisions. As the revision goes through the process, once it is finalized, it will go to the BOT for approval. There will be multiple opportunities for USC to provide feedback. Feedback is also forthcoming from the senates. Professor De Groote indicated it had not been sent to the senates. USC will forward to senates for input.

Ms. Hardesty provided an update while Mr. Lehmann shared the revision on screen. A collaborative dialogue was held.

Professor De Groote made a motion send the Revised Policy on Integrity in Research and Scholarly Activities to the senates for feedback to be returned by May 1, 2026. Professor Maher seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote by members in the room and those attending online.

Yes: Clancy, De Groote (Chair), Floros, Herrera, Kalita, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Wink  
Online: Carmichael, Danziger

No: None  
Abstain: None

XIV. Retreat Wrap-up, Discussion & USC Goals 9:30 -10:30

Professor De Groote encouraged an interactive discussion. USC considered ways to improve education for those serving in shared governance which could mean a boot camp. This opportunity could begin at the senate level letting senators know what it means for someone to serve in the senate and on USC. It could be feasible for USC to prepare a one page handout indicating what a candidate is responsible for if they are elected to serve.

Professor Hale joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Professor De Groote expressed interest in having members volunteer to develop materials for a shared governance bootcamp. Besides herself, Professor Tolliver came to mind to assist with the effort.

Professor Kalita departed at 10:44 a.m.

Professor De Groote suggested that USC Members provide regular updates to their senate about the USC Meetings.

The meeting recessed at 10:46 a.m. for a brief break and resumed at 11:02 a.m.

PRESENT: Clancy, De Groote, Floros, Hale, Herrera, Lyons, Maher, Mi, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Wink

Online: Danziger

XV. Today's Business – Discussion

a. USC response to guest presentations

Professor De Groote began with positive feedback from yesterday's meeting with the President and EVP. She would like to ask how the UI System can support

online learning. It would be nice to know who to go to on each campus for a better understanding of where things are at with online learning and how to reach nontraditional learners.

For the next letter from the Executive Committee to the President:

- 1) What does administration want to do at the UI System Level to support online education?
- 2) How will they decide what should be supported by the UI System?
- 3) Ask DPI questions

b. AARC mini conferences

Professor Clancy advised the committee has changed the name of the AARC mini conferences to System Symposia. The committee met with EVP Jones this morning and pitched the symposia idea. AARC would like to have a series of these symposia with the first being Spring 2026. The first symposia would include 20 to 30 people engaging in both directions. What would this look like? A gathering of K-12, librarians, professors and folks with indigenous knowledge across the State of Illinois. There are important things that can be done together thinking about what is being dealt with in society.

Consider academic freedom as it impacts teaching and service. There are methods to provide knowledge and also be listening. How can faculty support the flourishing of Illinois and the universities?

AARC has been given permission to think this through more granularly and go to Sarah Gantz.

XVI. 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.

Date	Location	Presenter	Title Due	Slides Due	Observer	From
11/13/2025	UIC	Barnwell	10/02/2025	10/22/2025	Floros	UIC
01/15/2026	UIC	Floros	11/24/2025	12/15/2025	De Groote	UIC
03/19/2026	UIS	Herrera	02/05/2026	02/25/2026	Mi	UIS
05/21/2026	UIUC	Clancy	04/09/2026	04/29/2026	Moorhouse	UIUC
07/16/2026	UIUC	De Groote	06/04/2026	06/24/2026	Lyons	UIUC

Professor De Groote inquired about presenters and topics for the USC Presentations being made to the BOT Meetings. Professor Floros will present January 15, 2026, on non-tenure track faculty and the role of specialized faculty in the mission of the universities; Professor Herrera on March 19, on barriers faculty see for collaboration, and Professor Clancy May 21, to provide a report on how the AARC Symposia went.

XVII. 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.

**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. Feedback received from UIS Senate 09/30/2025.

**Status:** Input is needed from UIC Senate.

- 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.

- f. 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.

Status: ST-92 will be transmitted to UIC and UIS for input by April 15, 2026

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and resumed at 12:54 p.m.

#### XVIII. Updates from Standing Committees

- a. Academic Affairs and Research (AARC)  
Professor Clancy spoke about the meeting with EVP Jones this morning about extension of the symposia model and how it can serve the State of Illinois. At times a community member will bring forward a problem for faculty to offer a solution.
- b. Finance, Budget, and Benefits (FBBC)  
Professor Lyons reported that FBBC did not meet today and will schedule a meeting in the near future.
- c. Statutes and Governance (SGC)  
Professor De Groote reported that work continues on trying to figure out how to go through all of the feedback received on ST-83. There was a letter that went to all three senates to request that work on all the statutes that did not originate from their senate be reviewed. ST-92 was sent on Friday.

#### XIX. Updates and Senate Priorities from each University

- a. University of Illinois Chicago  
Professor De Groote reported that the senate is working on a few resolutions. 1) support units that are supporting diversity on campus but have been cut. 2) A resolution to request NTT faculty be on the campus P&T Committee to allow representation of NTT Faculty. Professor Floros mentioned that UIC is hosting two townhalls for the search firm to get input for the Provost Search.  
  
Professor Floros mentioned the concern being faced at UIS where tenured faculty may experience their unit being eliminated or terminated. The statutes do not provide direction on what happens with faculty impacted.
- b. University of Illinois Springfield  
Professor Mi reported some progress has been made on conducting a valid program review. Faculty have lot of questions, many of which did not receive a direct response.
- c. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Professor Hale inquired about how the statutes revision process going at each

campus.

Professor Floros advised it is a slow process as they try to navigate around the fact that there is a lot of feedback.

Professor Lyons reported that the communication from Professor De Groote is with the UIUC USSP. There has been a first reading on ST-91, but no feedback yet.

Professor De Groote advised during the September 22 UIC Update at the USC Meeting, the word lawsuit should be replaced with investigation in the UIC College of Medicine. It was incorrectly reported as a lawsuit. There is not a case, it was a congressional committee conducting an investigation.

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

Professor Schwinn reported that the President's Alliance is a national coalition of the president's, chancellors, and universities that works on immigration issues coming out of Washington. Professor Schwinn serves on the legal advisory committee. There is advocacy around the H-1B Visa issues. If anyone has any anecdotes about the H-1B Visa issues and costs to the campus, he would be grateful for that information. Professor Schwinn spoke about potential challenges to in-state tuition.

XXI. President's Executive Leadership Program (Moorhouse)

Professor Moorhouse reported the cohort will meet later this month in Urbana.

XXII. Updates from External Groups with USC Representation

- a. U of I System AI Exchange (Maher)  
No update.
- b. Digital Risk Council (Fisher)  
No report.
- c. Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee (Roseman/Wink)  
Professor Roseman and Professor Wink reported that Nov 21 is the next DPI Executive Committee Meeting. Professor Wink indicated that this was supposed to be a face-to-face meeting but has now been switched to a one-hour call, every two weeks. The idea that was reported last time that the DPI Executive Committee is somehow going to become the Internal advisory committee. The DPI Executive Committee has not seen the new plan.
- d. Enrollment Management Policy Council (Wink)  
No report.
- e. Research Misconduct in Prior Employment Committee (Tolliver)  
Professor De Groote read aloud a report provided by Professor Tolliver:



The group meets every 3-4 weeks. Membership includes HR staff from the three campuses, representatives from the research offices of all three campuses, and some representation from Legal Counsel. The focus of the group is on developing a policy and a process to do background checks for findings of research misconduct in previous employment for new faculty hires. The tentative consensus is that, at least in the initial stage, the policy should apply only to faculty who are extended an offer to join the university with tenure already (that is, hires at the associate professor or professor level). The group will likely propose a policy that works in a similar way to the background checks for findings of sexual harassment in previous employment.

The group is in the drafting stage with meetings scheduled through the end of the current semester.

- f. System HR Committee to review the UI System Policy on Background Checks (Schwinn)  
No report.
- g. System Research Integrity Policy Committee (Danziger)  
No report.
- h. System-wide Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Council (Moorhouse)  
Professor Moorhouse indicated the next meeting is October 24.
- i. University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council (Lyons)  
Professor Lyons mentioned that the meeting focused on what the University of Illinois System would look like in 2035. It is a very high-level group of individuals that are part of this committee from a number of different backgrounds. The theme was based on what the UI System would look like in 2035: 1) What do they see for higher education? 2) How can the university strategically balance public and private sector partnerships to balance innovation? 3) How can it meet the needs of all learners? 4) How do we reimagine the Extension Paradigm? 5) How can the UI System drive emerging technologies like AI? It was nice to hear their viewpoints.
- j. Workplace Behavior Policy (Tolliver)  
No report.

XXIII. Closing remarks from the USC Chair

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to everyone who attended the USC Retreat over the last two days. The engaging discussion was wonderful. Professor De Groote shared her delight for the great topics being offered for presentations to the BOT.

XXIV. Adjournment – Next Meeting: Monday, November 17, 2025, at UIS. The meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

David Perryn  
USC Administration