

MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: November 17, 2025

PLACE: University of Illinois Springfield, Student Union, Room 222,
2251 Richard Wright Dr, Springfield, IL

PRESENT: Barnwell, Clancy, De Groote (Chair), Fisher, Floros, Hale, Herrera, Maher, Mi,
Symes, Wink

Online: Carmichael, Danziger, Erricolo, Kalita, Lyons, Roseman, Schwinn, Tolliver

ABSENT: Moorhouse

GUESTS: Nicholas Jones, Jennifer Creasey, Paul Weinberger

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 welcomed everyone to the meeting.

III. Roll Call

Mr. Perryn called the roll. Quorum: Yes

Members physically present: Barnwell, Clancy, De Groote (Chair), Fisher,
Floros, Hale, Herrera, Maher, Mi, Symes, Wink

IV. Approval of remote participation

Professor De Groote made a motion for approval of remote participation for USC Members physically present, allowing those attending via Zoom (Danziger, Erricolo, Kalita, Lyons, Moorhouse, Roseman, Schwinn, Tolliver) 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, Clancy, De Groote (Chair), Fisher, Floros, Hale, Herrera,
Maher, Mi, Symes, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

Professor De Groote made a motion to amend (adding Carmichael) the previous motion for approval of remote participation from USC Members physically present to allow those attending via Zoom (Carmichael, Danziger, Erricolo, Kalita, Lyons, Moorhouse, Roseman, Tolliver, Schwinn, Tolliver) to vote and participate in the meeting. Professor Hale seconded the motion. No discussion. A roll call vote was taken by members in the room. Motion passed.

Yes: Barnwell, Clancy, De Groote (Chair), Fisher, Floros, Hale, Herrera,
Maher, Mi, Symes, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Approval of the minutes from October 15-16, 2025

Professor Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes as amended from October 15-16, 2025. Professor Wink 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, Clancy, De Groote (Chair), Fisher, Floros, Hale,
Herrera, Maher, Mi, Symes, Wink

Online: Danziger, Kalita, Roseman, Schwinn, Tolliver

No: None

Abstain: None

Professor De Groote indicated that Mr. Perryn will send the minutes with a firm deadline for edits. This will avoid USC spending time suggesting editorial edits during the meeting. USC indicated agreement. No discussion.

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, Maher, Mi, Symes, Wink

Online: Danziger, Lyons, Roseman, Schwinn

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: October 29, 2025

Class I

The following three proposals are bundled into a single document

PR-26.05, Proposal to Eliminate the School of Art and Art History in the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts

PR-26.06, Proposal to Reorganize the Department of Art as the School of Art

PR-26.07, Proposal to Reorganize and Consolidate the Department of Art History and Program in Museum and Exhibition Studies as the Department of Art History and Museum and Exhibition Studies

PR-26.08, Proposal to Revise the Master of Science in Kinesiology; Revise the Concentration in Clinical Exercise Physiology; and Eliminate the Concentrations in Exercise Physiology, Psychology of Exercise, and Biomechanics

PR-26.09, Proposal to Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology and Nutrition

PR-26.10, Proposal to Revise the Master of Energy Engineering

PR-26.11, Proposal to Establish the Minor in Sustainable Business

PR-26.12, Proposal to Revise the Minor in Music

PR-26.13, Proposal to Establish the Concentration in Applied Economic Analysis in the BS in Data Science

PR-26.14, Proposal to Establish the Generalist Concentration in the Master of Public Health

CP-26.01, Proposal to Eliminate the Campus Certificate in Electronic Government

CP-26.02, Proposal to Establish the Campus Certificate in Implementation Science

CP-26.03, Proposal to Revise the Public Health Foundations Certificate

Class cNusc:

The UIC Senate approved the UIC Senate Resolution in Support of Colleagues and Students Affected by Grant Revocations for Financially “Needy” Students (**SR-26.01**). [The resolution is available at: <https://uofi.box.com/v/UICSenateResolution2601>]

The UIC Senate reaffirmed and amended the Resolution about making Chancellor aware of Shared Governance Timeline (**SR-25.01**). [The resolution is available at: <https://uofi.box.com/v/SharedGovernanceresolution2602>]

The UIC Senate approved Academic Calendars for the 2030-2031 academic year and 2031-2032 academic year and 2032-2033 academic year.

The UIC Senate endorsed the revised FA Policy 105 (Guidelines for Establishing and Investing Named Appointments).

- b. UIS:
None
- c. UIUC: October 13, 2025

Class I

- a) EP.26.004, Revise the Doctor of Musical Arts in Music in the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College
- b) EP.26.005, Establish the Concentration in Collaborative Piano in the Doctor of Musical Arts in Music in the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College
- c) EP.26.009, Revise and Rename the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Earth, Society, & Environmental Sustainability in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- d) EP.26.010, Revise the Concentration in Society and the Environment in the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Earth, Society, &

Environmental Sustainability in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- e) EP.26.011, Revise the Concentration in Science of the Earth System in the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Earth, Society, & Environmental Sustainability in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- f) EP.26.021, Eliminate the Master of Science in Teaching of Biological Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College
- g) EP.26.022, Establish the Graduate Certificate in Biostatistics in Public Health in the College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College
- h) EP.26.023, Establish the Graduate Certificate in Epidemiology in Public Health in the College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College
- i) EP.26.024, Establish the Graduate Certificate in Public Health in the College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College
- j) EP.26.025, Establish the Concentration in Quantitative Finance in the Master of Science in Finance in the Gies College of Business and the Graduate College
- k) EP.26.026, Revise the Master of Science in Finance in the Gies College of Business and the Graduate College
- l) EP.26.027, Eliminate the Concentration in Applied Statistics in the Master of Science in Statistics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College
- m) EP.26.028, Eliminate the Stats Dept Course List CIM-P record for the Master of Science in Statistics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College
- n) EP.26.029, Revise the Master of Science in Statistics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College
- o) EP.26.036, Revise the Master of Education in Secondary Education in the College of Education and the Graduate College
- p) EP.26.037, Eliminate the Concentration in English Language Arts (grades 9-12) in the Master of Education in Secondary Education in the College of Education and the Graduate College

- q) EP.26.038, Eliminate the Concentration in Social Science: History (grades 9-12) in the Master of Education in Secondary Education in the College of Education and the Graduate College
- r) EP.26.039, Eliminate the Concentration in Science (grades 9-12) in the Master of Education in Secondary Education in the College of Education and the Graduate College
- s) EP.26.040, Eliminate the Concentration in Mathematics (grades 9-12) in the Master of Education in Secondary Education in the College of Education and the Graduate College

Class uNusc:

- a) EP.26.001, Revise *Student Code* Sections § 3-103, § 3-104, and § 3-201
- b) EP.26.020, Report of Administrative Approvals Through October 13, 2025
- c) SP.25.08, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.12 – Committee on General University Policy

VIII. Meeting with EVP Jones, Jennifer Creasey and Paul Weinberger – 10:15
Professor De Groote welcomed EVP Jones, Jennifer Creasey, and Paul Weinberger to the meeting.

Ms. Creasey, Assistant VP of External and State Relations, joined from UIS. Her team focuses on all things state and local government. Mr. Weinberger, Assistant VP of Federal Relations, joined via Zoom. Ms. Creasey is based in Springfield, working across the street from the capital.

Ms. Creasey spoke about the 2025 grassroots efforts which included 8 calls to action campaign, 59,000+ emails/calls sent to state and federal officials; 3,745 witness slips submitted to the Illinois General Assembly.

FY27 Priorities:

- 1) State Operating Budget
- 2) Continue Equitable Funding Formula opposition
- 3) Regulatory Reform
- 4) Illinois Public Higher Education next steps

Ms. Creasey indicated that the proposed Equity Funding Formula bill is paused. The UI System educates 53% of all undergraduates in Illinois. With the current formula, the UI System receives 51% of the state appropriation. If the new formula passes, the UI System would only receive 28%. The UI System is opposed to the new formulas since it would be a detriment to the UI System. Ms. Creasey suggested that the bill needs to go

back to the drawing board. The proposed formula neglects to require specific outcomes such as graduation.

EVP Jones reported that there was a meeting with the BOT Chair and representatives from several advocacy groups. There was a robust conversation that allowed some data to be shared that demonstrated the harmful impact to UIUC, which would be worse for UIC. The UI System cannot support the proposed Equity Funding Bill since it would harm one of our most diverse universities so profoundly.

Mr. Weinberger provided a presentation on the current federal issues:

- 1) FY26 Appropriations
- 2) Research Funding
- 3) H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill
- 4) Visas/Immigration

The federal government has reopened. It will take several weeks before new awards and new solicitations are out. There is continuing resolution running through Jan 30, 2026. Mr. Weinberger advised there are more multi-year awards and fewer awards overall. F & A is also a continuing topic. OMB is most likely going to change the underlying regulations to allow at 15% cap on F & A. There is specific language in FY26 bills that reject efforts to cap F & A.

With regard to H.R. 1, advocacy helped but still there was significant impact on cuts to financial aid; cuts and changes to Medicaid will affect UI Health; SNAP-Education was eliminated.

Visas and Immigration changes:

- 1) Proposed rule ending Duration of Status for F-1s, J-1s
- 2) H-1Bs – there is a new 100k fee for new petitions
- 3) Further H-1B reforms including revisiting prevailing wage levels, prioritizing highly skilled/highly paid

EVP Jones reported that there may be a decline in international students due to challenges applying for a Visa.

EVP Jones reported that he will be hiring a Chief of Staff upon the retirement of his administrative assistant Sonja in December. This will help extend his reach as they can attend meetings as well. Lorraine who supports Associate Vice President of Academic Initiatives and Policies, Sarah Gantz, will retire in January. One administrator will be supporting both going forward. EVP Jones mentioned that Erica Rice is the new director of Enterprise Risk Management replacing Joda Morton who retired. Laurie Blandino, has been named as the CARLI designate Senior Director.

EVP Jones mentioned the 10.9% request for an increase in the state appropriation which would target 2.5% for a salary program.

EVP Jones reported that administration is working to be as transparent as possible. There

are reasons why transparency or lack of may be perceived. Some conversations only happen when university counsel is present. If they spoke about or read about part of a privileged document, then that would mean privilege was given up and that would be a disadvantage. In some instances, there may be other institutions involved. EVP Jones assured USC that administration is reactive to everything.

EVP Jones discussed scholarships programs with USC.

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to EVP Jones, Ms. Creasey, and Mr. Weinberger for attending.

The USC Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:30 p.m. Committee meetings were held from 1:05 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.

Professor De Groote called the meeting to order at 2:24 p.m.

PRESENT: Barnwell, Clancy, De Groote (Chair), Fisher, Floros, Hale, Herrera, Mi, Maher, Symes, Wink
Online: Danziger, Erricolo

IX. Today's Business – Discussion

- a. Questions for the December 4 USC Mtg with President Killeen and EVP Jones
Professor De Groote suggested sending questions that were not able to be answered due to the extended discussion time today, to the December 4 USC Mtg.
- b. USC response to guest presentations
Professor De Groote held an interactive discussion with USC. USC discussed recent changes to promotion and tenure dossiers and the balance between utilizing shared governance for decision making vs. issues requiring legal counsel that would not allow the use of shared governance.

X. Today's Business – Action Items

- a. Determine USC Presenters and Observers for Board of Trustees Meetings
Professor De Groote spoke about the new timeline for when the title and presentations were due from the USC presenter. The new schedule grid will allow more time for USC input in advance of the presentation being sent to EVP & VPAA for accessibility.

Professor De Groote requested that each member bring an idea December 4th to suggest for March 19, 2026.

BOT Mtg/Loc.	Presenter	Presenter sends title to DP by 9:00 am		Presenter sends slides to DP by 9:00 am	Final USC input & slides from Presenter due to DP by 9:00 am	Observer/From
1/15/2026 (UIC)	Floros	11/20/2025		12/4/2025	12/11/2025	De Groote (UIC)
3/19/2026 (UIS)	Herrera	2/5/2026		2/12/2025	2/19/2026	(UIS)
5/21/2026 (UIUC)	Clancy	4/9/2026		4/16/2026	4/23/2026	(UIUC)
7/16/2026 (UIUC)	De Groote	6/4/2026		6/11/2026	6/18/2026	(UIUC)

XI. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

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

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

USC held a brief discussion on the request for feedback from each senate for the document. Changes in federal law will require adherence January 1, 2026.

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

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

- c. ST-87: Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article I, Section 5 – Chancellors and Vice Presidents, Article II, Section 3a (1) – Faculty Role in Governance, and

Article III, Section 1g – The University. Passed UIUC Senate 11/15/2021. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates on 03/02/2022. Feedback received from UIS Senate 09/30/2025.

Status: Input is needed from UIC Senate.

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

Status: Input is needed from UIC and UIS Senates.

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

Status: Input is needed from UIS and UIUC Senates.

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

Status: Input is needed from UIS and UIUC Senates.

- g. ST-92: Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 6b – Severe Sanctions Other Than Dismissal for Cause for Members of the Faculty. Passed UIUC Senate 09/18/2023. Discussed at 09/22/2025 USC Meeting.

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

XII. Updates from Standing Committees

- a. Academic Affairs and Research (AARC)
Professor Clancy expanding on the Spring 2026 Symposia. AARC is developing a tentative budget. The symposia would be for a two-year period. While the original thought was to focus on academic freedom, the committee has decided to begin with the focus on public education serving the publics and the people of Illinois, positioning Illinois as a host that also has global outreach.

How can the whole consider civic re-engagement, the attacks on public education,

and the various ways that show up across a lot of different constituencies for the people of Illinois? The reach is wide from librarians to K-12 educators, to school board members, administrators, students, faculty and staff. What does it mean to provide public education? What is the role of the UI System in public education in Illinois? AARC will continue to develop the plan and appreciates input. AARC will also involve the Extension Offices.

b. Finance, Budget, and Benefits (FBBC)

Professor Barnwell reported that FBBC met last week and held a strategic planning session to generate a list of topics and questions the committee is interested in pursuing. The committee is working on generating a list of guests to invite for future meetings to address those questions.

c. Statutes and Governance (SGC)

Professor Fisher reported that while SGC did not quorum for a meeting today, there was still time for a discussion on document revisions.

XIII. Updates and Senate Priorities from each University

a. University of Illinois Chicago

Professor De Groote reported that the office for equity and diversity has now been renamed to the Office for the Vice Chancellor for Engagement (verify). Dissolve the office of the vice chancellor for innovative and strategic partnerships.

b. University of Illinois Springfield

Professor Fisher reported on a recent Employee Information System in which the top administrators gave presentations and updates. One update is that the administration has decided to take UIS out of COPLAC (Council of Public Liberal arts Colleges). The decision to join COPLAC involved campus-wide discussion in 2009 and has now been administratively reversed. The SEC is preparing communication to the Chancellor. A lot of changes are occurring in the Chancellor's Cabinet without faculty involvement.

c. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Professor Lyons submitted the following report via email:

Below are key highlights to share:

- i. A proposal at the last Senate meeting to reduce the language requirement for online degree completion programs from three semesters to two did not pass.
- ii. Regarding the P&T process and the DEI statement: the Chancellor and Provost announced that there will still be an optional fourth statement. Faculty may use this optional statement to discuss broader contributions to the university's mission and values that are not fully captured in the first three essays. This may include work related to DEI, academic freedom, and other areas. These policy updates will take effect for the next P&T cycles for both tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty. Administration

is working to have the updated P&T documents posted online by December 1.

- iii. The Urbana campus announced a reorganization to clarify reporting lines and reduce the number of direct reports to the Chancellor. As part of this reorganization, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (OVCDEI) will be renamed the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Access, Civil Rights, and Community (OVACARC) to better reflect the scope of its work.
- iv. The Urbana SEC received the Interim University of Illinois System Policy on Integrity in Research and Scholarly Activities and referred it to the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (CAFT), the Research Policy Committee (RP), and the General Policy Committee (GP) for review. These committees have been asked to report back to SEC by February 23. In addition, all Senators will have an opportunity to review the Interim Policy and submit feedback through an online submission process. The Interim Policy will appear on the December Senate agenda to facilitate discussion at the March 2 Urbana SEC meeting. This timeline will allow the Urbana Senate at its April meeting to focus on synthesizing and refining the feedback prior to submitting a consolidated response to USC.
- v. Jenny Roether (Director of the UIUC Senate) and I attended the BTAA Senate Leadership Conference in Madison, WI, along with our peer institutions in the Big Ten.

XIV. Report on the President's Alliance for Higher Education (Schwinn)
No report.

XV. President's Executive Leadership Program (Moorhouse)
No report.

XVI. Updates from External Groups with USC Representation

- a. U of I System AI Exchange (Maher)
Professor Maher reported that Professor Roseman will attend the next meeting.
- b. Digital Risk Council (Fisher)
Professor Fisher reported that the group has learned more about digital risk.
- c. Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee (Roseman/Wink)
Professor Wink reported that the DPI EC has not met recently. A meeting is scheduled.
- d. Enrollment Management Policy Council (Wink)
Professor Wink mentioned that the meetings are an exchange of information

about their enrollment. A program called "One click admit" makes it easy for someone applying to send their materials to several universities at once. UIS is a participant, but UIC and UIUC are not. This means other public universities in Illinois are getting thousands of additional applications including students who have no interest in going there which can create additional administrative burden.

e. Research Misconduct in Prior Employment Committee (Tolliver)

Professor Tolliver submitted the following report via email:

The group is now meeting about every two weeks, including meetings of a subcommittee focused on details of implementation. The group will continue to meet in the spring 2026 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)

No report.

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

No report.

j. Workplace Behavior Policy (Tolliver)

Professor Tolliver submitted the following report via email:

This group has not met this year.

XVII. Closing remarks from the USC Chair

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to everyone attending.

Professor De Groote requested an item be added to the next USC Meeting Agenda which would include writing a letter to BOT Secretary Stein to discuss challenges in attending BOT Meetings.

XVIII. Adjournment – Next Meeting: Thursday, December 4, 2025, at UIC, UIS, and UIUC.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

David Perryn
USC Administration