

MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, January 25, 2024

PLACE: I Hotel & Conference Center, Graduate Boardroom
University of Illinois Chicago, Daley Library, Room 1-360
University of Illinois Springfield, Brookens Library, Room 180G

PRESENT: Burbules, Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote, Funderburg, Jenkins, Leff, Li, Moorhouse, Symes, Tolliver, Weuve (Chair), Wink

Online: Erricolo, Lyons, Peiravian

ABSENT: Hobbs, Kalita

GUESTS: Timothy Killeen, Nicholas Jones, Angela Jacobs, Mike Wilson

Professor Weuve called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were made.

I. Meeting with President Killeen and Executive Vice President Jones

President Killeen joined the meeting from UIC and EVP Jones from the I Hotel & Conference Center. President Killeen spoke about the importance of shared governance. Tomorrow he will offer a presentation to D.C. Area Alumni to highlight accomplishments and priorities. Topics will range from Artificial Intelligence, to DEI, women's health research, skills and competencies needed by employers, and the role of the University as an anchor institution.

President Killeen spoke about the challenges in the world today and reaffirmed the safety and wellbeing of the students is the priority. The University is taking a wide range of measures to meet the needs while maintaining freedom of expression and open debate. President Killeen also spoke about the importance of maintaining academic freedom.

While some areas are experiencing a decline of confidence in higher education, President Killeen does not feel that is the case with the University of Illinois. A year ago, the University reached a record of 94,861 students. Last year, the highest number of graduate students completed their degree in Spring 2023 than ever. This academic year had an enrollment of 94,746. Even with the slight enrollment decline, the University has grown by 18% over the last decade. In 2022-2023, 27,106 students earned their degree which is another record. 52% of all Illinois Graduates are graduating at a higher than the normal rate with less debt defaults, and a higher-than-normal salary on their first job. A workforce is being created at scale for Illinois. The economic impact with the State of Illinois is 19 billion dollars.

Part of the gains have been with the commitment to affordability. The University of Illinois Board of Trustees approved the 7th tuition freeze in ten years. This year all eligible African Americans received MAP Funding. President Killeen expressed his interest in speaking with USC about what the next ten years look like.

President Killeen mentioned the recent addition of Dr. Jason Lane, as a President's Office Special Advisor. Dr. Lane is also the inaugural president of the National Association of System Heads (NASH). President Killeen inquired with USC of how the System could utilize the platform for performance in ways that are still public spirited, that deal with inequities, embrace diversity, fairness, providing a welcoming environment that is important to the next generation with excellence and commitment. This is a shared governance discussion of the future.

A lot of work is occurring with international partners which is part of the future direction. The University of Illinois System is working with Brazil, Mexico, India, and Taiwan. India is asking for assistance to building a university. There is a higher education market there. The focus is on international technology infusions, recruitment of faculty, economic development, and workforce development. How could the University work to provide the talent base?

President Killeen spoke about the changes in the admissions process. There are no direct questions asked about race. He believes it's important to be out and about in the community looking at the needs that exist and engage in recruiting. This effort includes talking with school counselors. President Killeen also mentioned the state road tour, a day in Springfield, a day in D.C., and the extensive marketing plan to let others know about the University of Illinois. Educating the public on what is offered is very important. President Killeen mentioned the shared governance responsibility to assist in identifying gaps that may exist at the University and System Level.

President Killeen asked what could be done in situations where schools are not able to offer advanced placement courses. When students take advanced placement courses they have a lower cost, and more confidence. Could there be a platform to offer advanced placement courses to high schools across the state as a solution to the access issue?

EVP Jones provided insight the preliminary application data. When asked about the recent challenges, EVP Jones mentioned the confusion created by a change in the FASFA process. Some students have become ineligible. As far as the admissions process, race and ethnicity are shielded from the admissions staff. This information is only available after an admissions decision is made.

EVP Jones spoke about the information obtained when a prospective student decides not to attend. A brief discussion was held on the balance of in-state, out of state, and international enrollment. There could be more out-of-state students attending.

President Killeen discussed the potential for a distance education product.

EVP Jones mentioned there are many opportunities for people across Illinois that have some college but no degree. Discussion was held on relationships with community colleges and transfers.

USC expressed support for finding a way to offer advanced placement classes since

there are some schools that cannot offer due financial or other constraints. Another consideration would be to offer foreign language classes at a younger age when they are easier to learn.

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

Meeting recessed for lunch at 11:51 a.m. and resumed at 1:02 p.m.

II. Meeting with Angela Jacobs and Mike Wilson

Professor Weuve welcomed Angela Jacobs, Director of Capital Programs and Utility Services, and Mike Wilson, Assistant Vice President of Capital Programs and Utility Services to the meeting.

AVP Wilson expressed appreciation for being able to present to USC and shared that Capital Programs & Utility Services is responsible for policy oversight, bidding contracts, procurement oversight, regulatory, and more. This includes management and control of the software system that capital is delivered on. This group provides project approval for projects that are 2.5 million dollars or larger.

Ms. Jacobs spoke about capital projects. There is currently 1.4 billion dollars in active capital across the System. 800 million dollars is going toward remodeling and deferred maintenance. Most of the buildings were initially funded through the State of Illinois. Under Governor Pritzker there was a massive capital bill in 2019 that changed how projects are funded. Discussion was held about buildings and expected life. Buildings are built to last between 20 and 100 years. This can be dependent on materials, purpose, and the future goals moving forward. USC inquired about who makes the decision to renovate or replace. The decision is made at the University Level and then must be approved by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees.

Student fees provide 45 million dollars a year across the System to address deferred maintenance in academic facilities.

A System-wide Assessment is being conducted to provide insight into the pain points. The result will be a database (repository and tracking mechanism) of the on-site condition assessment results by CannonDesign with 201 buildings at UIUC; 29 at UIC; and 1 (up to 3) at UIS.

USC discussed the potential threat of more deferred maintenance than feasibly possible to bring current. The current estimate is 94 million dollars of deferred maintenance needs. Another factor to consider is the increases in the cost of goods. Less people are going into the trades, which presents another issue of being able to obtain the skillset needed for the work and the cost. It is likely the cost will increase. One of the other factors to consider are the competing priorities. Each University determines their priorities and every spring, Capital Planning collects data.

Ms. Jacobs will share the building list with Mr. Perryn who will distribute it to USC. Since the pandemic, there is less need for faculty space as they use hoteling. This

allows for interim space usage with the remote working conditions.

Professor Weuve expressed appreciation to Ms. Jacobs and AVP Wilson for attending.

III. Committee Meetings (AARC, FBBC, SGC)

Committee meetings were held from 1:53 p.m. to 2:35 p.m.

IV. Business Meeting Call to Order

Professor Weuve called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m.

V. Public Comment

No Public Comment

VI. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Weuve welcomed USC to the Spring 2024 Semester and expressed her appreciation to everyone attending.

Professor Weuve asked for a USC Member to serve on the System Task Group on Online Strategy and Professor Angela Lyons was selected. Professor Weuve also asked for a USC Member to participate on the search committee for the Executive Director of University Ethics and Compliance Office. Professor Toliver will serve.

VII. USC Committee of the Whole Discussion: Follow-up items from the morning session

USC discussed building conditions and that conditions of buildings reflect priorities.

- Decision making process for determining priorities.
- Building leaks that damage equipment and then the burden of repair or replacement is not taken care of by facilities, but instead the PI.
- Colleges or departments being required to cover the cost of repairs when facilities do not.
- Raising funds for repairs
- Historic buildings and upkeep
- The last building assessment was completed 20 years ago.

VIII. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from December 11, 2023. A brief discussion was held. The minutes were approved as amended with a voice vote by USC Members in-person and by roll call vote for members attending on Zoom.

Yes: Burbules, Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote, Jenkins, Leff, Moorhouse, Tolliver, Weuve (Chair), Wink

Online: Erricolo, Lyons, Peiravian

No: None

Abstain: Funderburg, Li

IX. Classification of Senate Minutes

None

X. Old Business - Action Items

None

XI. Today's Business

1. USC Presenters and Observers for Board of Trustees Meetings

Professor Weuve mentioned the following schedule for upcoming meetings and USC discussed potential topics that will be decided at the February 21 USC Meeting.

Date	Location	Presenter	Observer	From
3/28/2024	Springfield	Wink	Weuve	Springfield
5/16/2024	Urbana		Tolliver	Urbana
7/18/2024	Chicago	Weuve	Weuve	Chicago

2. DPI Membership and Outreach

This item will be removed from the agenda.

3. Discussion of guests to invite to future meetings

A brief discussion was held.

4. BOT Observer Reports

Professor Weuve will address at the next meeting.

5. Select USC Representative for the Task Group on Online Strategy

Dr. Lyons will serve at the USC Representative.

XII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

- 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. The UIC Senate has sent its response.

Professor Weuve shared that UIS is working on ST-83 through the Senate. Professor Burbules and Professor Jenkins provided an update on behalf of UIUC. The goal for input is March.

- 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.
- 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.

4. OT-372. Proposal to establish a consultation process for system policies. Sent to Executive Vice President Wilson 2/3/21. Response from Executive Vice President Wilson 05/06/2021. USC discussed moving forward on 06/24/2021. Transmitted to Senates on 06/08/2023 with feedback requested by 01/17/2023. Input received from UIC, UIS, and UIUC.

Professor Burbules reported that SGC met and provided a draft response for USC. A motion was made and seconded to send the input to EVP Jones on OT-372. A brief discussion was held. The motion passed and a letter will be sent.

Yes: Burbules, Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote, Funderburg, Jenkins, Leff, Li, Moorhouse, Toliver, Weuve (Chair), Wink

Online: Lyons

No: None

Abstain: None

5. OT-387. University of Illinois System Values and Principles. Transmitted to the Senates on 03/27/2023 with advice requested to USC by 05/15/2023. 06/26/2023 requesting an extension through Fall 2023. Revised version sent to Senates with feedback requested by 01/17/2024.

Professor Weuve shared that OT-387 is working through the UIS Senate. Professor Jenkins confirmed UIUC Senate is as well.

6. SI-1. Updates from each University
 - a. University of Illinois-Chicago
No update.
 - b. University of Illinois-Springfield
No update.
 - c. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
No update.

7. SI-2. Updates from Standing Committees:

- a. AARC

Professor Dallesasse shared insight on the discussion AARC had about potential research coordination across the System Universities. One consideration could be a central database that would track the type of research being conducted that could make it easier to build on.

- b. FBBC

Professor Campbell shared that FBBC discussed pensions and Tier II. The committee has questions on the DPI and IIN Budgets, broadband and

capital funding, and how they coordinate with K-12 initiatives. The committee is hoping to meet with VP Walsh to inquire about the Great Lakes Consortium.

c. SGC

Professor Weuve reported that SGC worked on a response to OT-372 for USC.

8. SI-3. Updates from External Groups with USC Representatives:

a. Data Strategy System-wide Task Force

No update.

b. Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee

Professor Wink shared that DPI hired an Art Historian that is currently doing research examining career pathways and skills of arts alumni and companies that hire them.

c. Enrollment Management Policy Council

Professor Wink met. EVP Jones summarized the discussion earlier in the meeting.

d. President's Executive Leadership Program

Professor Lyons reported that PELP will meet in Springfield at the end of February.

e. System-wide Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Council

No update.

f. University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council

No update.

g. Workplace Behavior Policy

Professor Weuve mentioned there will be an update forthcoming.

XIII. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Next meeting is February 21 at UIC, UIS, and UIUC.

David Perryn
USC Administration