

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Tuesday, March 14, 2023

PLACE: Videoconference

PRESENT: Burbules, Campbell, Danziger, De Groote (Chair), Erricolo, Fisher, Hobbs, Kalita, Leff, Sharma, Stroschio, Tolliver, Varden, Weuve, Wink

ABSENT: Benson, Dallesasse, Jenkins, Maher, Peiravian

GUESTS: Donna McNeely, Paul Weinberger, Jennifer Creasey

Professor De Groote welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

I. Meeting with Donna McNeely

Ms. McNeely, Executive Director of Ethics and Compliance, joined the USC Meeting to present the proposed University of Illinois System Values and Principles document. This document is intended to replace the current Code of Conduct that was updated in 2005. Ms. McNeely advised that the University of Illinois System Values and Principles should be more inclusive, transparent, and accepting. A mock-up webpage was displayed to give USC the opportunity to provide feedback after seeing it displayed.

The University of Illinois System Values and Principles document covers professional conduct and highlights honesty and integrity; equity, impartiality, and fairness; inclusion; dignity and respect; diversity; commitment to the mission while fostering and promoting health and safety within the University of Illinois System Communities; protecting privacy and confidentiality; modeling a respectful, collaborative, and supportive environment for all; being good stewards of all resources; and maintaining and strengthening the public's trust and confidence.

Ms. McNeely conveyed her appreciation to Professor Tolliver and Professor Weuve for the engagement in the meetings and procurement of input from constituents.

USC discussed the proposed document with Ms. McNeely and suggested additional insights regarding how the update transpired and the timeline to implementation. USC will discuss further and send over any suggestions to Ms. McNeely. Upon approval, Ms. McNeely will send any updates to USC to transmit to the Senates for their high-level input. USC will indicate a deadline so feedback can be sent back to Ms. McNeely by May 15, 2023. The goal is for the proposed document to be on the September 21, 2023, University of Illinois Board of Trustees Agenda and for implementation in Fall of 2023.

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to Ms. McNeely for the overview and discussion of the proposed University of Illinois System Values and Principles at 10:38 am.

USC continued the discussion had with Ms. McNeely and sent Mr. Perryn suggestions for

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of April 27, 2023

updating the language used within the proposed document. USC will discuss this afternoon in the business meeting. Recommended updates will be sent to Ms. McNeely. The future version will be transmitted to the Senates for input by the May 15, 2023, deadline.

II. Committee Meetings

Breakout rooms were created for the Academic Affairs and Research Committee and Finance, Budget, and Benefits Committee to meet at 11:39 a.m. Reports will be provided in the afternoon meeting.

III. Meeting with Paul Weinberger, Assistant Vice President Federal Relations and Jennifer Creasey, Assistant Vice President External & State Relations, Office of Governmental Relations

Professor De Groot welcomed Mr. Weinberger and Ms. Creasey to USC at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Weinberger presented on advocacy guidelines and mentioned the importance of obtaining approval from the Office of Governmental Relations (OGR) before engaging with government officials. OGR will provide background information and talking points to help provide more consistent messaging.

Mr. Weinberger provided an overview on current federal trends of the 117th and 118th Congress. The 117th Congress was very active with pandemic relief, the infrastructure law which included research and development, and the semi-conductor industry funding, among other items. In contrast, the 118th Congress has been slower with more scrutiny in spending.

USC inquired about a situation that occurred with a University in Indiana. It is important to distinguish between how a person speaks, writes or acts in their personal capacity or for a professional society and when they speak, write or act on behalf of the university's interests." It should be very clear a person is speaking for themselves unless approved to represent the University.

Ms. Creasey indicated that our Advocacy Guidelines are written for a person to reach out on their own behalf. This is an effort to prevent a person from representing the System as taking a position. It's also important that all three Universities avoid having differing positions so they are not publicly opposing each other.

USC inquired about earmarks. Mr. Weinberger advised that there are more rules on earmarks now. NSF cannot be earmarked. Politicians will knock out controversial research. The need to address the impacts on climate change is very clear.

Ms. Creasey spoke about state government relations indicating OGR has a small office in Springfield and is also located in Henry Administration Building at UIUC. The current focus is on state appropriations for the State of Illinois Budget to include an increase for higher education. Last year the budget included a 5% increase, and this year the goal is a 7% increase. It has been difficult to get funding at this level. Ms. Creasey indicated the Governor's Office is partnering with the state and recognizing the importance of higher education. Ms. Creasey encouraged membership in Illinois Connection:

https://uillinois.quorum.us/sign_up/2622/?utm_source=111720OGRWeb

USC inquired about potential updates to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA). Ms. Creasey advised that OGR is working with other groups to pass legislation in the Legislature to allow hybrid meetings. With the COVID-19 Pandemic, hybrid meetings increased attendance and decreased travel costs.

USC raised the question on current regulations regarding export controls that require a disclosure of individuals and organizations the University would like to collaborate with. The recommendation from OGR was to speak with the specific University contact since information such as financials could also be important to consider.

Two resources were provided to USC:

1) Federal Priorities:

https://www.uillinois.edu/userfiles/Servers/Server_1240/file/ERC/EXCR20221130_Federal_Priorities_Booklet_Final_Digital_Accessible.pdf

2) Guidelines for Faculty and Staff on University Advocacy and Interactions with Government Officials:

https://www.uillinois.edu/userfiles/Servers/Server_1240/file/ERC/revised%20advocacy%20guidelines%20-%20final%20for%20distro%204_2022.pdf

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to Mr. Weinberger and Ms. Creasey for their engaging discussion at 1:55 p.m.

IV. Business Meeting Call to Order

Professor De Groote called the business meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

V. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor De Groote offered brief remarks regarding the morning session and plan for the suggestions to be prepared for Ms. McNeely.

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

No discussion was necessary due to a brief discussion held immediately following the presentation by Ms. McNeely.

VII. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes of the February 16, 2023, meeting were approved as distributed by roll call vote.

Yes: Burbules, Campbell, Danziger, De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher, Hobbs, Kalita, Leff, Sharma, Stroschio, Tolliver, Varden, Weuve

No: None

Abstain: None

VIII. Classification of Senate Minutes

Class I:	Matters of policy affecting one campus only. Item is sent to the President and Board of Trustees for action.
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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. The following items were classified I by the University Senates Conference:

1. University of Illinois at Springfield, March 10, 2023

Res. 52-29 Creation of Graduate Certificate in Accounting Data Analytics

2. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 6, 2023

EP.23.025 Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences in the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College

EP.23.036 Eliminate the concentration in Computational Genomics in Bioengineering in the Master of Engineering in Engineering in the Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College

EP.23.037 Eliminate the concentration in Pharmaceutical Engineering in Bioengineering in the Master of Engineering in Engineering in the Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College

EP.23.038 Eliminate the concentration in Astrochemistry in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the Graduate College

EP.23.039 Eliminate the concentration in Biomechanics in the Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College

EP.23.040 Eliminate the concentration in Cancer Nanotechnology in the Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College

EP.23.041 Revise the Doctor of Medicine in Medicine in the Carle Illinois College of Medicine

B. The following items were classified N by the University Senates Conference:

1. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 6, 2023

SP.23.07 Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article 1, Section 1

SP.23.11 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.10 – Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

EP.23.035 Report of Administrative Approvals through February 20, 2023

EP.23.042 Report of Changes to Non-Direct Admissions through February 20, 2023

EP.23.044 Report of Administrative Approvals through February 27, 2023

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Classification of Senate Minutes. The Classification of Senate Minutes was approved by a roll call vote:

Yes: Burbules, Campbell, Danziger, De Groot (Chair), Erricolo, Fisher, Hobbs, Kalita, Leff, Sharma, Stroschio, Tolliver, Varden, Weuve
 No: None
 Abstain: None

IX. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

X. Old Business - Action Items

1. OT-385. FOIA concerns; External Relations & Communications as guests. USC discussed the latest draft and next steps. A motion was made and seconded to send forward to the Senates after a final review with University Counsel.

Yes: Burbules, Campbell, Danziger, De Groot (Chair), Erricolo, Fisher, Hobbs, Kalita, Leff, Sharma, Stroschio, Tolliver, Varden, Weuve
 No: None
 Abstain: None

XI. Today's Business

1. Attendees for the Board of Trustees Meeting on May 18 in Urbana
 - a. Presenter: Professor Kalita, presenting "A Day in the Life is a Week in the Life"
 - b. Observer: Professor Sharma
2. Attendees for the Board of Trustees at its July 20 Meeting in Chicago
 - a. Presenter: Professor De Groot, presenting "University Senates Conference"

2022-2023 Report”

b. Observer: Professor Hobbs

3. DPI Membership

Professor De Groote mentioned the concern over DPI Membership is being handled and the input.

4. Discovery Partners Institute Outreach

Professor Wink indicated that while technology is the first area of focus for DPI, other initiatives are in the works. The new building will include community gathering and performance spaces. A concern was raised that rental space will be needed elsewhere in The 78 due to the space constraints expected in the new DPI Building.

USC discussed the engagement challenges with DPI, the need to reestablish working groups, and the need for utilization of shared governance.

The business meeting recessed at 11:39 a.m. to allow time for committee breakouts.

Professor De Groote continued the business meeting at 1:55 p.m.

5. USC Meetings post May 11, 2023

Professor De Groote acknowledged that meetings after May 11 will be in-person as they previously were prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Illinois' Public Health Emergency for COVID-10 will end on May 11, 2023. Discussion methods to conduct meetings in January and February when weather can be more of a factor for travel were held. USC discussed the benefits for holding in-person meetings in addition to being more welcoming for new USC Members. It was also recommended that USC Members attend the annual two-day retreat in-person that is usually held in September.

6. Systems Office Taskforces - updates

a. Anti-bullying policy

Professor Weuve indicated that the Anti-bullying policy is developing into more of a Workplace Behavior Policy and how to promote good behavior. The meeting scheduled for this week was moved to next week to review the second draft. There will be one overall policy from the System and then each University will be responsible for enforcement. The projected implementation is fall of 2023, but unlikely due to the need for feedback from the Senates. recirculation to stakeholders is expected between August and October. USC would like to review prior sending to the Senates.

b. Background Check policy

Professor Weuve indicated this is a review of the current policy, and will provide an update at the next meeting.

c. Code of Conduct

Professor Tolliver mentioned the earlier discussion held.

7. Discussion of guests to invite to future meetings

- April 27: 1:00 p.m. – Chancellor Gooch at UIS
- May 31: 1:00 p.m. – Chancellor Reyes at UIC
- June 26: 1:00 p.m. – Chancellor Jones at UIUC

8. SURSMAC

Professor De Groote shared that SURS will provide biannual presentations about the current status of SURS. System HR also oversees the Annuitants Group and currently send out messages on current happenings with SURS. System HR is willing to attend a meeting at any of the Universities to provide an update and gather feedback. UIUC also has a SURS Benefit Committee for faculty and academic staff.

Professor De Groote will draft a letter for the Senates to let them know what is going on with SURSMAC.

9. GR-51. Proposed Revision to the *General Rules*, Article IV, Employment Policies, Section 1 c) Juneteenth, I Funeral/Bereavement, and m) Parental Leave

Discussion was held on the General Rules Update and how they were written. A question was raised over the aggregate time of parental leave that cannot exceed six weeks. USC also inquired about the definition of immediate family under funeral and bereavement. Professor De Groote will discuss with Jami Painter, Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer.

10. NC-2024. Nominating Committee for USC.

Professor De Groote will email USC for one individual from each University to serve.

11. OT-387. University Values and Principles Discussion

Professor De Groote asked USC to review the University of Illinois System Values and Principles Document as revised using input from USC. Discussion was held and a motion was made and seconded to send the revised document back to Ms. McNeely for consideration.

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the University of Illinois System Values and Principles as revised. If updates are approved, USC will send to the Senates for input.

Yes: Burbules, Campbell, Danziger, De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher,
Leff, Strocio, Tolliver, Varden, Weuve, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

12. OT-389. Reapportionment Calculation for USC Representation

Professor De Groote explained the purpose of performing the reapportionment calculation for USC representation normally conducted every five years. The reapportionment calculation was completed and there are no changes to representation at this time. The next reapportionment calculation should be conducted in 2023.

Explanation of File Numbers

ST - University of Illinois Statutes

GR - The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure

NC - Nominating Committee

OT - Other Topics

SI - Standing Items

XII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

1. ST-83. Revisions to the *Statutes* – newly proposed revisions. Sent to Executive Vice President Wilson 5/1/20. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 following ST- 77) transmitted to UIS, UIC, and UIUC Senates 9/2/21. UIC responded with Collated Comments 1/12/22. USC sent a request for bifurcation and clarification to UIC on 2/8/22. UIC Senate Request for Modifications 12/1/22.

Professor Burbules indicated feedback from UIUC would not be before the summer. Professor Weuve advised UIS is obtaining feedback and hopes to provide it in the fall.

2. ST-84. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4 – Changes in Existing Units. Passed UIUC Senate 11/12/18. Transmitted to Senates 12/18/18. Revised UIUC Senate document 4/22/19. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 5/7/19. Passed UIS Senate 8/30/19. Passed with amendments UIC Senate 1/30/20. UIC Senate amendments transmitted to UIS and UIUC Senates 3/2/20. Passed UIS Senate 4/3/20. Passed with amendments UIUC Senate 4/27/20. Reconciled language approved by USC 5/29/20. Reconciled language to Senates 6/2/20. UIUC Senate USSP response 6/5/20. UIC SEC response 6/10/20. UIS Senate response 4/30/21. Transmitted to President 6/3/21.
3. ST-85. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 1 (Tenure of Academic Staff) (a) 6 and 7 – to permit the use of five-year appointments for non-tenure-track faculty. Passed UIC Senate 4/22/20. Transmitted to UIS and UIUC Senates 5/1/20. Passed UIUC Senate 3/8/21. Passed UIS Senate 3/26/21. Transmitted to the President 4/5/21.
4. ST-86. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article III, Sections 3 and 5, and Article VI – Dean, Director, or Campus Librarian. Passed UIUC Senate 4/27/20. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 5/1/20. Passed UIC Senate 10/21/20. Passed UIS Senate 4/9/21. Transmitted to President 5/5/21.
5. 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 11-15-21. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates on 3/2/22.
6. ST-88 Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article IV, Section 1 – The Department, Section 2 – Department Organized with a Chair, Section 3 – Department Organized

with a Head, and Section 4 – Change of Departmental Administrative Organization – Passed UIUC Senate 3/7/22. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates on 4/6/22.

7. 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 5/6/21. USC discussed moving forward on 6/24/21.

Professor De Groote plans to bring this up with Executive Vice President and Vice President of Academic Affairs Nicholas Jones for further discussion.

8. OT-385. FOIA concerns; External Relations & Communications as guests. Transferred from 6/29/22 agenda for further discussion. 9/27/22 – Kirsten Ruby & Matt Sullard met with USC on 9/27/22. 10/27/22 – Scott Rice met with USC.
9. OT-386. University of Illinois System Policies on Conflicts of Commitment and Interest. Re-transmitted from the EVP Office 12/3/22. Transmitted to the Senates 2/2/23.

Professor De Groote reported that the Conflicts of Commitment and Interest had recently been sent to the Senates with tracked changes which made it difficult to determine what had been added, removed, or changed since moving content could make deciphering it a move vs. an addition could be challenging. Professor De Groote has since obtained a clean copy of the proposed changes and will be sending it to the Senates for feedback by June 1, 2023, so that USC can provide input to the Systems Office.

10. SI-1. Updates from each University
 - a. University of Illinois-Chicago:
Professor Wink shared that UIC is working on the Provost position and will have news soon.
 - b. University of Illinois-Springfield
Professor Weuve is working to fill several UIS leadership positions at various steps in the process.
 - c. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Professor Burbules shared that UIUC is in the midst of a Provost Search. Three finalists have been brought in, but nothing has been announced.
11. SI-2. Updates from Standing Committees: Academic Affairs & Research Committee (AARC); Finance, Budget, & Benefits Committee (FBBC); Statues & Governance Committee (SGC).
 - a. AARC
Professor Varden reported that the presentation slides will be prepared by Professor Sharma. The presentation will be made by Professor Kalita and will focus on teaching, advising, research, and mentoring. It will lift the students up in a way faculty aspire to do.

- b. FBBC
Professor Campbell reported that the committee was reviewing pensions, medical benefits and SURSMAC. The plans are not out of line with peers. The question is if they are in-line with what's available in industry which is hard to determine. Professor Campbell report that salaries are not out of line. For men and women that are full professors, 73% are men and 27% are women in our System. A recent survey reported that 31% are women. USC mentioned that the difference in the retirement plan options also is affected by the time when a person joined since the offerings have changed over the years as well as salary differentials.
- c. SGC
No report.

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

- a. Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee
Professor Wink provided a report under DPI Outreach.
- b. Enrollment Management Policy Council
No report.
- c. President's Executive Leadership Program
No report.
- d. U of I System Going Forward: Excellence Amid COVID-19 Steering Committee
No report.
- e. University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council
Professor Stroschio reported that the PAC met on February 23. The President has a very distinguished committee former officials from the National Science Foundation, an entrepreneur from MIT, a chief scientist at Moderna, and people involved in the Human Genome Project to name a few. During the meeting a video was shown highlighting the new Discovery Partners Institute Building. President Killeen talked about collaborations and introduced the new Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Nicholas Jones. Professor Stroschio reported that many are very complimentary of the efforts of President Killeen. The next meeting will be held in October.

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to Professor Stroschio for his dedication to USC.
- f. Code of Conduct
Professor Tolliver discussed earlier in the meeting.

XIII. Adjournment

Professor De Groote adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.