

MINUTES  
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, April 18, 2024

PLACE: University of Illinois Chicago, Student Center West, Room 206

PRESENT: Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote, Erricolo, Funderburg, Hobbs, Kalita, Weuve (Chair), Wink

Online: Burbules, Jenkins, Leff, Li, Moorhouse, Peiravian

ABSENT: Lyons, Tolliver, Symes

GUESTS: Deba Dutta, Ranjan Karri

I. Call to Order

Professor Weuve called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. Discussion of items from President Killeen and EVP Jones for input

Professor Weuve requested input from USC on the proposed DPI Student Conduct Code that will be sent to EVP Jones. The main reason for the proposed DPI Student Conduct Code is that there are students attending through DPI that are not students at UIC, UIS, or UIUC. It's important to have the structure in place. USC requested additional time to formulate input and will send it to Mr. Perryn by April 24, 2024.

Professor Weuve spoke about the Presidents Executive Leadership Program (PELP) and how it is beneficial to someone looking to be in administration or leading programs. USC will have a representative going through the program in the new academic year that will be nominated by the USC Chair in June.

Professor Weuve also mentioned the request from EVP Jones for USC Members to assist with the Sustainability Congress that will be held in Chicago June 16-June 20, 2025. The four teams and members serving are:

- 1) Sponsorship/Partnership –
- 2) Operations/Logistics –
- 3) Communications – Professor Peiravian
- 4) Program Planning – Professor Kalita and Professor Funderburg

III. Meeting with Dr. Deba Dutta and Dr. Ranjan Karri – 11:00 a.m.

Professor Weuve welcomed Dr. Dutta and Dr. Karri back to USC. This is the first meeting for Dr. Dutta as Interim Executive Director for DPI (Discovery Partners Institute). Dr. Dutta mentioned his recent efforts since taking the role in mid-February have been getting to know the team and learning as much as he can about how DPI operates. Dr. Dutta remarked that DPI is a complex organization that has grown significantly over the last four years. Dr. Dutta expressed his gratitude for knowing several within the organization and at the universities.

USC inquired about Dr. Dutta's efforts to prepare for the new DPI Executive

Director. Dr. Dutta spoke about his focus on process, culture, and relationships to provide the most positive conditions. Currently there are several areas where there are not standard procedures. DPI is not a college or department and does not possess the standard processes or policies like a college does. This creates a gap which can be closed by the development of organization specific guidelines, policies, and practices. One example of an opportunity is that most employees have a remote work agreement to work remotely Monday and Friday, while in the office Tuesday through Thursday. There has been some inconsistency with working in the office. If a policy change is needed, the employee should talk with their supervisor. There needs to be more of a culture for adherence to rules and policies of the institution and organization. Dr. Dutta believes that DPI is a social organization where relationships are important both internal and external to the UI System. Communication is central to relationships.

USC asked Dr. Dutta what DPI would look like for DPI to be a well-managed organization. Dr. Dutta spoke about DPI executing on its mission, the importance of good relationships which are central to DPI's success, a shared understanding of the way the universities operate, and the importance of the USC for what DPI is, what it should be doing, and what are the metrics for success of DPI.

Dr. Dutta spoke about the meeting tomorrow with the DPI Executive Committee which is scheduled for three hours. The metrics of success will be a topic of discussion. Measuring the indicators of successful economic development is complicated. There is also a Workforce Education unit within DPI called IWERC (Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative) that can provide additional information that will demonstrate value. IWERC is not funded by DPI.

Professor Weuve spoke about USC being a strategic partner and not a hurdle to get through, just like the DPI Executive Committee. Both entities should be utilized by the new director. Professor Weuve is very optimistic about the path forward.

USC expressed the importance of DPI becoming self-funded. Tomorrow the DPI Executive Committee will meet, and Dr. Karri will give a one-hour session on financials. The reliance on System Funding has continued to decline. DPI will be fully self-sustaining. DPI is currently using 50% less funding from the beginning. Dr. Dutta spoke about the history of DPI and its progression to this point. One area to grow more in is philanthropy. If they believe in DPI, they will find ways to contribute.

Thinking about the approach, in the academic environment it is important to bring people along with you. Even if the new Executive Director is from the corporate world, there will still be strong support from colleagues like Dr. Karri, Dr. Venkatakrishnan, and others that have internal knowledge. There are still opportunities for assistance from USC. Support for DPI has to be internal as well. This ties into the success of fundraising.

USC spoke about the importance of everyone feeling like they are included and can connect to DPI.

Dr. Dutta spoke about the importance of Arts and Humanities and mentioned that there will be more coming in the next year with proposals. In AI, there is a large role for Humanities.

USC discussed office space utilization with Dr. Dutta and concerns about building a new building when staff, leadership, and civil service aren't spending much time in the leased space. Dr. Dutta spoke about the importance of having a space to call DPI instead of simply occupying leased space. The State of Illinois allocated 500 million dollars through the Illinois Innovation Network and the RFP is out. The due date was April 15, but another extension has been requested. While the occupancy rate in downtown Chicago is low driving prices down, the prime properties are still in high demand.

A comment was made about the recent drop in value of the Illini Center which is where DPI is currently leasing three floors. USC inquired about pivoting. Perhaps the capital funds would be allocated in better ways. Dr. Dutta thought the point was well taken and that the conversation would be of value.

USC expressed concern about the bid being higher than projected. Dr. Dutta report that a meeting had occurred with the White Sox since they are planning to be close in proximity. Dr. Dutta mentioned that this could lead to more funds in the longer term.

USC shared concerns with the design and additional financial impacts due to the egg-shaped building design with curved glass. Since the original design had wet labs and the current design does not, there could be other concessions necessary.

USC expressed the importance and value of communication with the DPI Executive Committee and USC. Dr. Dutta encouraged USC to help faculty understand there are different challenges with DPI since it is a startup that is part of the University of Illinois Institution. USC responded that they want to be a partner moving forward.

Dr. Dutta plans to have a conversation with President Killeen after this meeting to update him on the items mentioned today. Dr. Dutta conveyed that Illinois is creating an organization for the purpose of economic development. He asked USC to understand that DPI is like Bell Labs. In the big picture, he believes it will take 15 years for DPI to be recognized fundamentally. He welcomes input and thoughts from USC and asked that they reach out to him directly.

Professor Weuve expressed appreciation to Dr. Dutta and Dr. Karri for this conversation.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:35 p.m. Committee meetings were held from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

The meeting resumed at 2:05 p.m..

- V. Discussion of items from President Killeen and EVP Jones for input  
No further discussion was needed.

- VI. Business Meeting Call to Order – 2:30 p.m.

- VII. Public Comment

None

- VIII. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Weuve expressed appreciation to USC for what she has learned working with USC Members and for the terrific work they are doing.

Professor Weuve spoke with USC about the upcoming USC Meeting in Urbana on June 28. Earlier in the year it was suggested that USC consider offering a celebratory dinner at the end of the year to give USC time to reflect on and acknowledge their hard work. Professor Weuve asked USC if they would meet the evening of June 27 for the business meeting, social hour, and dinner and then meet the next morning on June 28 for breakfast, committee meetings, and the USC Organizational Meeting before concluding with the President and EVP. USC was in favor of this opportunity. It was decided that it would also be a great opportunity for the new USC Members to attend a meeting to get to know USC.

Professor Weuve mentioned that “Shared Governance” does not appear in the *Statutes* and inquired with USC if an operational definition from USC should be made available to the Senates. Professor Weuve also suggested that an operational definition for “Educational Policy” also be made available. USC referred to OT-351 Shared Governance and System-wide Academic and Research Initiatives at the University of Illinois.

A discussion was held on sending a letter to the Senates regarding shared governance in action on OT-372 to illustrate an example of how it works. USC voiced agreement in sending a letter.

- IX. Approval of Minutes from March 26, 2024

A motion was made Professor Funderburg and seconded by Professor Danziger to approve the minutes from March 26, 2024. No discussion. The minutes were approved with a voice vote by USC Members in-person and by roll call vote for members attending on Zoom.

Yes: Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote, Erricolo, Funderburg, Hobbs, Kalita, Weuve (Chair)

Online: Burbules, Jenkins, Leff, Li, Moorhouse

No: None

Abstain: Hobbs

X. 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.
- 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 Springfield, April 5, 2024
  - Res. 53.28 Creation of a Minor in Writing and Publishing
  - Res. 53.29 Creation of Medical Laboratory Science Graduate Certificates in Clinical Chemistry, Hematology, Immunohematology, and Microbiology
  - Res. 53-30 Creation of a Graduate Certificate in Marketing
2. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, April 1, 2024
  - EP.24.082 Creation of the School of Computing and Data Science in the Grainger College of Engineering
  - EP.24.084 Establish the Undergraduate Minor in Minoritarian Aesthetics in the College of Fine and Applied Arts
  - EP.24.085 Establish the Graduate Minor in Minoritarian Aesthetics in the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College
  - EP.24.086 Establish the Undergraduate Minor in Semiconductor Engineering in the Grainger College of Engineering
  - EP.24.092 Establish the Undergraduate Minor in Data Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

EP.24.093 Revise the Undergraduate Minor in Architectural Studies in the College of Fine and Applied Arts

EP.24.094 Revise the Undergraduate Minor in Urban Studies & Planning in the College of Fine and Applied Arts

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

1. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, April 1, 2024

SP.22.01 Proposed Revision to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83)

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

1. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, April 1, 2024

Class uNusc:

EP.24.087 Report of Administrative Approvals through March 18, 2024

EP.24.088 Report of Administrative Approvals through March 25, 2024

SP.24.08 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.8 – Committee on Educational Policy (membership)

A motion was made by Professor Erricolo and seconded by Professor Danziger to approve the Classification of Senate Minutes. No discussion. The Classification of Senate Minutes was approved by a voice vote for USC Members in-person and by roll call vote for members attending on Zoom.

Yes: Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groot, Erricolo, Funderburg, Hobbs, Kalita, Weuve (Chair), Wink

Online: Burbules, Jenkins, Leff, Li, Moorhouse

No: None

Abstain: None

XI. Old Business – Action Items

None

XII. Today's Business

1. USC Presenters and Observers for Board of Trustees Meetings

Professor Weuve spoke about the upcoming opportunities to present and observe at the BOT Meetings.

Date	Location	Presenter	Observer	From
5/16/2024	Urbana	Weuve	Tolliver	Urbana
7/11/2024	Chicago	Weuve	De Groot	Chicago

2. BOT Observer Reports

Professor Weuve expressed delight with the new template.

3. NC-2025: USC Members and Vacancies 2024-2025 AY

A quick discussion was held about the number of new members joining USC.

XIII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

1. 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 Senate have sent their response.

Professor Burbules mentioned that SGC had met and would make decisions as far as possible using the input received but would not start the process over.

2. 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.

Professor Burbules indicated that the Senates will address ST-87 in the Fall.

3. 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.

Professor Burbules indicated that the Senates will address ST-89 in the Fall.

4. 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. The UIC and UIUC Senates have sent their response. A status update letter has been sent to EVP Jones. UIS Senate has sent their response.

5. SI-1. Updates from each University

- a. University of Illinois-Chicago  
No update.

- b. University of Illinois-Springfield  
Professor Weuve mentioned that UIS Senate will hold the last meeting of

the academic year on Friday along with the organizational meeting.

- c. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Professor Burbules mentioned that UIUC Senate rejected ST-83. SGC will have a decision to make on the path forward. Professor Jenkins feels there is a path forward. Professor Burbules reminded USC of the charge by the BOT to update the *Statutes*. In the past, ST-77 went through quickly.

6. SI-2. Updates from Standing Committees:

- a. AARC  
Professor Dallesasse mentioned that AARC met today. There was not a quorum. The plan for the next meeting is to discuss implications of AI, research in the Arts and Humanities which could be a topic for the fall presentation, and an idea to offer System Mini Conferences as a way to bring others together across the System to collaborate.
- b. FBBC  
Professor Campbell spoke about budget concerns related to building a new building for DPI instead of buying an existing since there are no longer going to be wet labs. Discussion was held on purchasing existing real estate since there are low occupancy rates bringing down the cost with more employees working remotely. It was suggested that the utilization rate be considered before proceeding with building a new building. The committee also discussed the possible impacts of the new IBHE funding formula.
- c. SGC  
Professor Burbules previously report for SGC in the items above.

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

- a. Data Strategy System-wide Task Force  
Professor Campbell indicated task force has not met.
- b. Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee  
Professor Jenkins spoke about the three hour in-person meeting tomorrow that Professor Wink will attend since there is not a virtual option.
- c. Enrollment Management Policy Council  
No update.
- d. President's Executive Leadership Program  
No update.
- e. System-wide Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Council  
Professor Moorhouse advised the council has not met since joining.
- f. University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council  
No meeting.



- g. Workplace Behavior Policy  
No meeting.

- XIV. USC Committee of the Whole Discussion: Follow-up items from morning session  
USC expressed concern over the Chicago Real Estate Market and utilization of office space since so many employees work remotely. USC is concerned with the occupancy rate and would like to avoid adding to the problem by adding another building that would likely have low occupancy. USC also mentioned the recent sale of the Illini Center for 80 million dollars which was substantially lower than previously offered. It was suggested that FBBC convey a question to the Executive Committee Members prior to May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- XV. Adjournment – Next meeting will be held May 29, 2024, at UIC.  
Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

David Perryn  
USC Administration