

MINUTES<sup>1</sup>  
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Wednesday, May 31, 2023

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

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

ABSENT: Peiravian

GUESTS: Timothy Killeen, Nicholas Jones, Provost Karen Colley

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

I. Meeting with President Killeen and Executive Vice President Jones

President Killeen joined virtually and was delighted to share that the State Budget passed in both Houses in Springfield. The budget is now on the way to be signed by the Governor. In addition to the budget, this round included regulatory relief revisions.

The operating budget includes a 7% increase for public universities operating funds, base operating lines. The total University of Illinois increase in operating funds is 42.5 million dollars representing a 6.5% increase to 697.8 million dollars. The reason it is not 7% is that the budget includes several line items that received an uptick of 2.5% such as Prairie Research Institute, the Hispanic Center of Excellence, and Labor and Employment Relations. The MAP (Monetary Award Program) funding also received an increase of 100 million dollars. University of Illinois students receive about 50% of the MAP funding. In other good news, the SURS retirement component is at the certified amount of 2.13 billion dollars. The state is supporting retirement efforts. All capital projects are reappropriated.

President Killeen shared information about recent legislation that passed. COP (Certificate of Participation) that allows our institutions to enter 30-year contracts. This will be helpful for financing the Banner Enterprise upgrade in a few years. Another bill will make it easier to recruit in-state students by allowing public institutions to obtain data about high school students so they can be recruited earlier.

The state funding is a fraction of the operating funding that is also supported by tuition and research. This puts the University in a good place to have a progressive salary program this year. In addition, there was also a set of guideline revisions for the Legislative Audit Commission that eliminated prescribed use of Indirect Cost Recover (ICR) funds. This will provide more flexibility on how to use ICR, eliminating a carry-over calculation that constructed us with carry forward of ICR funds.

President Killeen expressed appreciation to the faculty and the University Senates Conference for their advocacy. This is a very favorable budget year.

---

<sup>1</sup>Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of June 26, 2023

EVP Jones shared that he has spoken with his colleagues across the country about the budget increase. Other areas are not seeing this investment in higher education. This is a true testament to the work being done at the University of Illinois consistently demonstrating the benefits of investment. Most recently the President's Executive Leadership Program traveled to Washington D.C.

President Killeen reflected on the trip and the energy of the 22 leaders in the program. The group met with delegation members, the Department of Education, the Department of Homeland Security and a key leader at OSTP (Office of Science and Technology) who was very instrumental in drafting the CHIPS (Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors) Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. The group also went to the Old Executive Office Building and the White House.

Professor Weuve indicated that the experience was amazing. The University of Illinois is very respected. The trip afforded many opportunities to network. Professor Weuve was most impressed with the opportunity to meet Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor.

Professor De Groote congratulated President Killeen on the success with the budget and at the national level.

EVP Jones is completing his fifth month in his role and said it has been amazing. He shared his support for academic freedom and shared governance. He also shared his core operating principles:

- 1) Empowering others to achieve all that they can achieve.
- 2) Exceeding the sum of our parts as individuals, as a university and a system.
- 3) Focusing on long-term vision. Every vision needs to have a strategy associated with it. What do we want to achieve over the next 3, 5 and 10 years? How do we execute these actions?
- 4) Making sure that the investments are achieving results.
- 5) Being transparent right up to the confidential phase.
- 6) Utilizing strategic innovation.

EVP Jones provided insight about lessons learned in his current role:

- 1) Integrity – this place has it, we are doing the right thing.
- 2) Impact – desire across all our institutions to be impactful.
- 3) Innovation – we need to be strategic to identify the things that are important.
- 4) Intensity – exists not only in the University, but also in the budget. The BOT is aligned with faculty, up to the legislator, and the Governor.
- 5) Immediacy – there is much opportunity and much to be done. The federal government, through the CHIPS Act, is perfectly aligned to take advantage of that investment opportunity. The funding is available now. We need to have a sense of urgency to develop in front of the right people. This means we may need to move faster than we are used to.
- 6) Investment – The Governor made a half a billion dollars investment in the University of Illinois System. There is good thinking taking place about how to allocate the resources so they can have the best impact. The time is now. We have an opportunity to be even more impactful. There is a lot of hard work to be done and challenges to face. We all can look up and see how impactful we can be as an institution.

EVP Jones shared that the Sustainability Research Institute Conference will be held in Panama this year. The 2025 Conference will be held at the University of Illinois Chicago. This will provide an opportunity to showcase the great work. It will focus on community, inclusion and building a sustainable and thriving future.

USC suggested involvement from all three universities. With each university working individually, there is an opportunity for more collaboration. EVP Jones encouraged empowerment to achieve more through a strategic vision and plan. With each university having their own personality, the efforts require constant connection and engagement. With AI, Sustainability, Online Education, and local opportunities such as Great Lakes and DPI, it's important that the System also has a strategic vision and plan. DPI will be helpful with this effort. What is after the next grant, and the grant after that? What structure is in place to develop a new industry? What is the best approach to overcome communication challenges? EVP Jones expressed his commitment from his team to make the connection.

EVP Jones mentioned that the 78 will be different. It is critically important to determine how to engage partners across the spectrum. What problems do we face and how do we solve them?

USC asked EVP Jones about Access 2030 being a focus for UIC, UIS and UIUC. EVP Jones indicated that each university has their own plan and so does the System. The charge will be simple, to think out of the box. A suggested change is to send the Offer Letters out earlier. It will be important to determine what steps are needed to change our procedure, so this is possible. EVP Jones is planning to hire a person that will lead Access 2030.

EVP Jones confirmed the Campus Salary Program will be offered in August. This will allow investment in our people. EVP Jones discussed efforts to maintain competitiveness and quality for recruiting and growing faculty to meet enrollment growth. Many are joining the university from southern areas. Academic freedom is a value here. Working with the Provosts, they have pushed the message out to Deans and Department Heads.

USC inquired about communication opportunities. EVP Jones discussed the methodology of how markets present news stories. There needs to be more about the great work faculty have been doing.

USC held a brief discussion about scholarships, federal funding for PELL Grants and ways to make higher education more accessible to students. International students do not qualify for PELL Grants or MAP Funding, so they will write a check.

EVP Jones mentioned that we are working on ChatGPT which is being used in many ways. Joe Barnes, Digital Risk Officer, University of Illinois System, is looking at this and will provide institutional guidance to the AI Committee. USC asked EVP Jones for the committee membership list, and he indicated it would be sent out. The current committee is temporarily operating and then will disband once a new committee forms.

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to EVP Jones for the presentation at 12:10 p.m.

II. Committee Meeting

The Statutes and Governance Committee met at 12:25 p.m. and will provide a report in the afternoon session.

III. Meeting with Provost Colley, University of Illinois-Chicago

Professor De Groote welcomed Provost Colley to USC at 1:10 p.m.

Provost Colley is a biochemist serving as Interim Provost at UIC. Having began her career with UIC in 1991, she has held several leadership positions. Provost Colley announced that the new Chancellor, Marie Lynn Miranda, has asked her to continue as Provost.

Note: The Zoom Connection was lost from 1:15 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. due to a technical issue.

Provost Colley shared her plan to provide a process for how a student would proceed if they thought a faculty member did or said something that was an issue. The purpose of the process is to allow the students and faculty members to be comfortable so they could reach an informal resolution promptly. The student needs to understand what did or did not happen. How do we make this amicable? The student will still attend class and there will be interaction with the educator.

USC asked if there was a situation where Provost Colley would add mediation? Provost Colley thought this would be a good idea to include. The challenge is that every situation is unique.

USC asked Provost Colley if there are guidelines to indicate what a person could file a grievance for. Provost Colley mentioned that there are many policies, and the overall goal is to resolve an issue at the lowest level as privately as possible. It is important to note that the way a conversation begins is what will guide it. If there is a need, a student can file a formal complaint to the Department Head or Chair.

Provost Colley expressed appreciation for her strong team that helps support her. It reminds her that she isn't doing everything herself. She enjoys helping others solve problems and recognizes UIC has students from many different backgrounds. Community engagement matters as well as considering how problems impact Chicago and how to solve them.

The Innovation Center at UIC has been supporting entrepreneurial opportunities with teaching and hands on experience. Students learn how to collaborate in class and develop solutions. The Faculty Entrepreneurial Leadership Program (FELP) was developed at UIC and is designed to enhance faculty entrepreneurship knowledge, and seed new venture creation, develop a diverse and inclusive community. This program was launched this year and moves between UIC, DPI and UIUC.

Provost Colley mentioned that UIC moved financial aid offerings to January. This fall will be the largest incoming class.

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to Provost Colley for her presentation at 1:48 p.m.

IV. Business Meeting Call to Order

Professor De Grootte called the business meeting to order.

V. Remarks from the USC Chair

No remarks.

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

Professor De Grootte asked USC for their input on the morning session. A brief discussion was held on Access 2030, ChatGPT and DPI.

VII. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 27, 2023 minutes as amended. The minutes were approved 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 Grootte, Erricolo, Fisher, Hobbs, Kalita, Leff, Maher, Sharma, Tolliver, Wink, 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.
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, April 7, 2023

- Res. 52-37** Substantive Revisions to the BA in Public Policy
- Res. 52-21** Formation of the Institute for Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice
- Res. 52-33** Clarification of USC Representative Election
- Res. 52-34** Addition of Faculty Advisory Committee to Campus Senate *Bylaws*
- Res. 52-36** Editorial Revision of *Bylaws* Due to Reorganization

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Classification of Senate Minutes. The Classification of Senate Minutes was approved by a voice vote for USC Members in-person and by a roll call vote for members on Zoom.

Yes: Burbules, Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher, Hobbs, Kalita, Leff, Maher, Sharma, Tolliver, Wink, Weuve  
No: None  
Abstain: None

IX. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

X. Old Business - Action Items

XI. Today's Business

1. Attendees for the Board of Trustees at its July 20 Meeting in Chicago
  - a. Presenter: Professor De Groote, presenting "USC 2022-2023 Report"
  - b. Observer: Professor Hobbs
2. Attendees for BOT Sept 21
  - a. Presenter, TBD
  - b. Observer, TBD

3. DPI Membership and Outreach

Professor De Groote mentioned that feedback from USC is being heard based upon the updates.

Professor De Groote mentioned that Professor Jenkins and Professor Winks have been serving on the DPI Executive Committee. Anyone interested in serving should notify Mr. Perryn.

4. Systems Office Taskforces - updates

a. Anti-bullying policy

Professor Weuve reported that the Workplace Bullying taskforce working on understanding the scope of the policy. The meeting today was cancelled. They

are working with University Counsel. Discussion has also taken place about how this will work with other policies. A document will be created to explain this. Once the policy is created, there will be an implementation process for each University to implement the policy. This could take another year unless the University decides to begin working on the process while the policy is being finished. The draft policy will go through USC, be sent to the Senates and back to USC.

b. Background Check policy

Professor Weuve reported that this work has been completed. Professor De Groote will forward the document to USC.

c. Code of Conduct

Professor Weuve indicated that this was the Guiding Principles, and this will be removed from the agenda.

5. Discussion of guests to invite to future meetings:

- June 26: 1:00 p.m. – Chancellor Jones at UIUC

6. SURSMAC

Professor De Groote shared the concern that there has not been communication to the Senates to stop appointing Senators to SURSMAC. This topic will be revisited.

7. NC-2024. Nominating Committee for USC.

Professor Varden indicated that members interested in serving could nominate themselves by sending an email to Mr. Perryn.

8. Discuss Senate feedback on OT-386: University of Illinois System Policies on Conflicts of Commitment and Interest

Professor De Groote requested a letter summarizing the compiled feedback be sent to Sarah Gantz, Senior Assistant Vice President for Academic Initiatives and Policies. The Systems office will review the feedback for consideration. The motion to send a letter was approved by USC Members in-person and by roll call vote for members attending on Zoom.

Yes: Burbules, Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher, Hobbs, Kalita, Leff, Maher, Sharma, Tolliver, Weuve, Wink

No:

Abstain:

9. Discuss Senate feedback on OT-387: University of Illinois System Values and Principles

Professor De Groote shared that USC accepts the document if it is aspirational. The document does not refer to compliance issues. It is important to understand how they work together. USC recommends that the Values and Principles should be made at the same time as the Workplace Behavior Policy. It is suggested that a final review occur, and that Ms. McNeely can work directly with Professor Tolliver and Professor Weuve.

Mr. Perryn will summarize the feedback from all three universities in a letter for USC.

10. SGC review USC *Bylaws* for potential revision due to OMA  
Professor De Groote suggested SGC review the USC *Bylaws* at a future SGC meeting.
11. ST-89. UIUC SP.23.01 and SP.19.15 requested transmittal to UIC & UIS  
Professor Burbules shared a background that the UIUC Senate proposed a revision to the *Statutes* and shared ST-88. SGC requests that ST-83 be addressed before the other items. A letter will be sent to UIC and UIS requesting they complete ST-83 first and then work on ST-89 that will replace ST-88 and include the latest requested revisions.

### **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. Awaiting feedback from UIUC and UIS 3/14/23.

Professor Burbules suggested a new letter be sent to request this item be promptly addressed.

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. Transmitted to Senates on 06/08/2023 with feedback requested by 11/03/2023 for EVP Jones and Ms. Painter.
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. A letter with the document called “Understanding FOIA” authored by USC was sent to the Senates on 05/19/2023.

This item is being removed from the agenda after a motion, second, discussion and a roll call vote.

Yes: Burbules, Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote (Chair), Erricolo, Fisher, Jenkins, Weuve, Wink  
No: None  
Abstain: None

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 with advice requested to USC by 04/10/2023. A letter providing feedback will be sent to Sarah Gantz.
10. SI-1. Updates from each University
  - a. University of Illinois-Chicago:  
Professor Wink reported the new academic year Senate Leadership will be Professor Keith Flores, Chair; Professor Donald Wink, Vice Chair; and Professor Sandra De Groote, Secretary.

- b. University of Illinois-Springfield  
Professor Weuve provided an update on hiring. Professor Weuve was re-elected as Senate Chair and Professor Amy Dunning was re-elected as Senate Vice Chair. Professor Dunning will be joining USC in the new academic year. An announcement will be made about the strategic investment fund soon.
- c. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
No report

11. SI-2. Updates from Standing Committees:

- a. AARC  
No report
- b. FBBC  
No report.
- c. SGC  
Professor Burbules advised SGC sent forward ST-84, ST-85, and ST-86 through the President to the BOT. Suggestion is to remove ST-88 after ST-89 is finished.

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

- a. Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee  
Professor Wink advised that DPI is interested in more involvement with Arts and Science.
- b. Enrollment Management Policy Council  
Professor Wink reported that EMPC will meet in two weeks.
- c. President's Executive Leadership Program  
Professor Weuve provided insight on the President's Executive Leadership Program (PELP). USC Members interested should send a brief bio to Professor De Groote and Mr. Perryn.
- d. University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council  
Professor De Groote mentioned that former USC Member Michael Strocio served in this capacity. Interested USC Members should contact Mr. Perryn.
- e. Code of Conduct  
This group is being renamed to Workplace Behavior Policy.

XIII. Adjournment

Professor De Groote adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.