

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

DATE: Monday, June 26, 2023

PLACE: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, I Hotel & Conference Center, Lincoln Room

PRESENT: Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote (Chair), Dunning (online), Erricolo, Hobbs (online), Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Lyons, Maher, Peiravian (online), Tolliver, Varden, Weuve, Wink

ABSENT: Burbules, Fisher, Sharma

GUESTS: Timothy Killeen, Nicholas Jones, Jay Walsh, Robert Jones

Professor De Groote welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Introductions were made.

I. Meeting with President Killeen, Executive Vice President Jones, and Vice President Walsh, Economic Development and Innovation

President Killen was delighted to report on his recent travel to Europe where he visited five cities in five days. The University of Illinois continues to develop the brand, networking, and opportunities for research and innovation. President Killeen mentioned the strong presence in Singapore by UIUC. The University of Illinois System has opened its first office at UNAM in Mexico City. This opens the door for student recruitment, exchange of researchers and the chance to work on challenges around health, agriculture, sustainability and more. There is now a gateway that did not exist before. The University is also working with top institutions in India. With 1.4 billion people in India under age 25, there are more opportunities for distance learning. The focus is to continue developing a network for research and connection to other institutions. President Killeen mentioned the current approach is to make investments in mobility for faculty to travel. Work continues with Jay Walsh, VP for Economic Development and Innovation. The overall strategy is evolving.

VP Walsh spoke about the recent trip to Taiwan where the focus is on semi-conductors, health, and sustainability. There is an opportunity for growth.

USC and President Killeen discussed the possibility of student exchanges and challenges. USC suggested ideas for improvement to the current process for admissions.

Discussion was held on faculty exchanges. President Killeen believes there are opportunities.

EVP Jones noted funding considerations to keep in mind in addition to implications on taxes and personal income. There are essentially three categories to working remote:

- 1) University requests the faculty to work in another country to complete an objective.
- 2) Faculty takes a sabbatical and works for 6 months in another country.
- 3) Faculty member wants to live and work from another country.

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<sup>1</sup>Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of August 17, 2023

President Killeen reported that DPI is doing well returning on the investment. The DPI Headquarters building is on track with a May 2024 bulldozer date. President Killeen noted that Chancellor Designate Miranda has already expressed her vision of UIC's involvement in DPI.

President Killeen spoke about the 680 million dollars in funding received from the state budget which makes up 10% of the entire budget. EVP Jones shared that 20% will be focused on student support, 20% on cost increases and 60% will be focused on maintaining salary investments in institutional quality. USC expressed the importance of appreciating existing faculty.

President Killeen mentioned the increase of an additional 50 million dollars in MAP Funding.

President Killeen also shared the concerns of pressure on both sides at all three Universities when facing delayed construction due to increased capital costs. EVP Jones indicated that project schedules and duration need to be thought through more carefully with potential cost factors in mind as far as availability of materials and equipment. This may require the use of alternative materials as designs are considered to build in options to address supply constraints. As a project progresses, it may be necessary to adjust to another option to reduce costs. The scope of a project could be reduced to realize additional cost savings such as leaving an interior floor unfinished. EVP Jones mentioned the current approach is to move projects along quickly to cope with the inflationary environment.

USC mentioned concerns with deferred maintenance on buildings at UIUC and a brief discussion was held on approaching the challenges.

VP Walsh provided an update on his office, the Illinois Innovation Network, and the Office of Technology Management. When new inventions are developed at the University, inventors can work with the Office of Technology Management (OTM). The purpose of OTM is to provide professional services to ensure research is successfully transferred outside the University to drive economic growth in the State and benefit the public. The Office of Economic Development and Innovation operates a venture capital group called Illinois Ventures.

The Illinois Innovation Network is structured and collaborative, working with three Universities in the System and nine across the state. This provides an opportunity to connect the strength of these Universities with each other. VP Walsh mentioned that no other place in the country has an effort like the Illinois Innovation Network.

President Killeen mentioned that we are a network of networks, across three Universities, IIN across the states, and internationally. How do we increase life expectancy? How do we improve child nutrition? These are examples of areas we can focus on.

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to President Killeen, EVP Jones, and VP Walsh.

The meeting recessed at 12:19 pm

II. Meeting with Chancellor Jones, University of Illinois Urban-Champaign

Professor De Groote called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm and welcomed Chancellor Jones.

Chancellor Jones expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to join the USC meeting and shared his appreciation for shared governance. After providing a brief overview of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Chancellor Jones mentioned this was his 7<sup>th</sup> graduation year. Jackie Joyner-Kersey, six-time Olympic medalist was the commencement speaker this year. With the weather being almost perfect, over 6000 graduates attended. This marks one of the highest years with 80-85% participants in graduation. Chancellor Jones noted his arrival in September of 2016 when UIUC had 45,000 students. Today, there are about 57,000 students. Enrollment growth is expected to continue. UIUC will focus on providing affordable and amazing education at an affordable price.

Chancellor Jones also spoke about the new grocery store in Cairo, IL. Prior to this, a person would need to travel 35 miles for groceries unless they wanted to go to the Dollar Store which doesn't carry fresh fruit and vegetables. This is possible through a collaboration with the University of Illinois System's Illinois Innovation Network and University of Illinois Extension's SNAP-Ed Program. The food co-op is called Rise Community Market.

The new UIUC Provost John Coleman will start on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Coleman is currently the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts in Minnesota. He is very excited about returning closer to where he spent most of his career. Coleman will continue to advance Boldly Illinois.

Chancellor Jones expressed his appreciation to Bill Bernhard, Interim Provost for UIUC. UIUC is resilient with great leadership.

Chancellor Jones also highlighted Innovate Illinois which is a public-private partnership to secure funding for the State of Illinois that focuses on climate initiatives, science, and technology. Governor Pritzker asked Chancellor Jones to serve as vice-chair along with Jennifer Scanlon, Chief Executive Office of UL Solutions. This program will help coordinate and bring together the collective effort to secure grant opportunities to give Illinois a competitive advantage to win in science, transportation, innovation, and technology.

USC inquired with Chancellor Jones about potential obstacles. Chancellor Jones shared that we cannot always be asking for more. Periodically it's important to look at operational inefficiencies. UIUC is collaborating with Huron Consultants to provide an assessment transactionally, both operationally and financially. The next area of focus is IT to reduce inefficiencies across servers and consolidation of services such as branding and marketing. At times there are limitations. UIUC was able to add a second solar farm, while UIC isn't in an area with as much open space so they could not.

USC inquired about the reduction in staff and the reason for the delays in hiring specialized

faculty. Chancellor Jones acknowledged the challenges and suggested that there needs to be a different model. The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has made a commitment to Illinois HR to right size the deficit. Chancellor Jones also suggested that when resources are freed up in an area, they should be able to be maintained in the area they are realized.

Professor De Groote expressed appreciation to Chancellor Jones for attending.

The meeting recessed at 2:03 pm for the USC Organizational Meeting.

III. Business Meeting Call to Order

Professor De Groote called the business meeting to order at 2:17 pm.

IV. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor De Groote acknowledged the work over the last year by USC. There have been many accomplishments. USC also recognized Professor De Groote for her efforts as the Chair of USC. In acknowledgement of their service, Fisher, Maher and Varden were presented with a personalized Service Plaque.

Mr. Perryn expressed his appreciation for the leadership of Professor De Groote as USC Chair and presented her with a personalized service plaque.

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

USC voiced appreciation for the information provided in the morning session on the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN), and the network of networks. Further discussion was held on how DPI operates under IIN the importance of faculty engagement with DPI.

After discussion on the increase in the state budget, a motion was made and seconded for the USC Executive Committee to send a letter to the President expressing appreciation to Governor Pritzker for the increase in state funding and support for FY24, for the University of Illinois System.

Yes: Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote (Chair), Dunning (online), Erricolo, Hobbs (online), Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Lyons, Maher, Peiravian (online), Tolliver, Varden, Weuve, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

VI. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the last meetings of 2021 were delayed and are being presented to USC for approval. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from August 31, 2021; September 27, 2021; November 4, 2021; and December 9, 2021. A brief discussion was held. 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 (Chair), Erricolo, Hobbs (online), Jenkins, Kalita, Maher, Peiravian (online), Tolliver, Varden, Wink

No: None  
Abstain: Dunning, Leff, Lyons

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from May 31, 2023. A brief discussion was held. 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 Groot (Chair), Dunning (online), Erricolo, Hobbs (online), Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Maher, Peiravian (online), Tolliver, Varden, Wink

No: None  
Abstain: Dunning, Lyons

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII. Old Business - Action Items

None

XI. Today's Business

1. Attendees for the Board of Trustees Meeting on July 20 in Chicago

- Presenter, Sandra De Groot, Summary of USC 2022-2023 Academic Year
- Observer, Keia Hobbs

2. Attendees for the Board of Trustees Meeting on September 21 in Urbana

- Presenter, Celest Weuve
- Observer, Carol Leff

3. DPI Membership and Outreach

A brief discussion was held about the efforts by DPI to engage with faculty.

4. Nominations by USC Chair for AY2023-2024

- DPI Executive Committee – 2 Nominations  
Jeffrey Eric Jenkins and Donald Wink
- Enrollment Management Policy Council – 1 Nomination  
Donald Wink
- President's Executive Leadership Program – 1 Nomination  
Angela Lyons
- President's Advisory Council – 1 Nomination  
Sudeep Sharma

A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of nominations by the USC Chair for the 2023-2024 academic year. The slate was approved with a voice vote for USC Members in-person and by roll call vote for members attending on Zoom.

Yes: Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote (Chair), Dunning (online), Erricolo, Hobbs (online), Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Maher, Peiravian (online), Tolliver, Varden, Weuve, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

5. Systems Office Taskforces - updates

- Workforce Behavior policy  
This item is being removed from the agenda.

6. Discussion of guests to invite to future meetings:

- August 17: Joe Barnes, Chief Digital Risk Officer

USC discussed meetings for the next academic year and will meet in one location at UIC, UIS and UIUC in January, February, and March 2024. The meetings will be conducted over Zoom, and they will be held in a place accessible by the public. A boxed lunch will be available for members attending.

7. SURSMAC

Professor De Groote discussed the purpose of SURSMAC being on the agenda. USC suggested a letter from Ms. Painter, Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, be sent to the Senates advising if there are questions about SURS, they can contact System HR.

8. SGC review USC *Bylaws* for potential revision due to OMA

SGC is reviewing for USC. USC mentioned being able to attend a meeting remotely can increase accessibility and attendance.

X. 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. The proposed statutory revisions have been transmitted to UIS, UIC, and UIUC Senates. The UIC Senate has sent its response.

USC held a discussion on obtaining input from the Senates for a Statutes Revision in the past and the process of endorsing, rejecting, or amending.

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. This item will be removed from the agenda.

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. This item will be removed from the agenda.
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. This item will be removed from the agenda.
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-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.
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.
8. 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 on 2/2/23 with advice requested to USC by 04/10/2023. Transmitted to EVP Office with feedback from Senates 06/21/2023. This item will be removed from the agenda.
9. 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. Professor De Groot asked for input. USC suggested the following statement be sent in a letter to Ms. McNeely, Executive Director of University Ethics and Compliance, to request an extension to allow feedback to be provided in the Fall:

*The Conference recommends that the draft statement be revised to state more explicitly*

*that the values and principles expressed there should be understood as aspirational, rather than prescriptive. We would appreciate the opportunity to provide more detailed input during the Fall 2023 semester once each senate has had time to forward its comments to us.*

A motion to send a letter to Ms. McNeely to advise of the above recommendation was made and seconded. A brief discussion was held prior to the voice vote.

- Yes: Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote (Chair), Dunning (online), Erricolo, Hobbs (online), Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Lyons, Maher, Peiravian (online), Tolliver, Varden, Weuve, Wink
- No: None
- Abstain: None

10. 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.

11. SI-2. Updates from Standing Committees:

- a. AARC  
No update.
- b. FBBC  
No update.
- c. SGC  
No update.

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

- a. Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee  
No update.
- b. Enrollment Management Policy Council  
Professor Wink reported that EMPC met. It is very encouraging that all three Universities reported enrollment increases in the fall.
- c. President's Executive Leadership Program  
No update.
- d. University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council  
No update.
- e. Workplace Behavior Policy  
Professor Weuve advised the work of the committee had been paused due



to discussion of potentially changing the Code of Conduct instead of creating a new policy.

- XI. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm. The next meeting is Aug. 17 at UIUC.