

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Tuesday, August 31, 2021

PLACE: Videoconference

PRESENT: Benson, Burbules, Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groot (Vice Chair), Erricolo, Jenkins, Kalita, Kar (Chair), Maher, Peiravian, Razfar, Sharma, Strahle, Stroschio, Tolliver, Varden, Weuve, Wink

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Avijit Ghosh, Timothy Killeen

Professor Kar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

I. Meeting with President Killeen and Executive Vice President Ghosh

President Killeen gave a general update on the status of the system, acknowledging the contributions of successful shared governance. He mentioned that thirty Presidential Medallions were given out this year. Enrollments are looking robust. Covid numbers are down, and vaccination rates are over 80%. Each of the three universities has building projects underway. Research dollars are close to one billion. Fundraising reached \$450M in the fiscal year that ended in June. A Discovery Partners Institute (DPI) program reached 700 students by giving them internships this past summer. The Illinois Innovation Network (IIN) continues to expand throughout the state.

There was discussion of a new state law that guarantees graduates of community colleges admission to the University of Illinois System. The program guarantees admission to a particular campus, but admission to a particular program is not guaranteed.

EVP Ghosh provided updates on two systemwide policies that are being considered: Proposed revisions to the System *Policy on Conflicts of Commitment and Interest*, of which Professor Dallesasse is the faculty representative; and a document that would provide guidelines on the consultation and approval process for system policies. President Killeen discussed some future issues that will be coming up. Professor Kar said that USC could discuss topics it considers to be crucial to the U of I System and to higher education at its retreat in September.

President Killeen discussed various legislative and governmental issues, including FOIA judicial cases in fundraising settings, executive actions on the vaccine mandate, the University System's bill on Illinois Prosper, and regulatory relief that allows the system to work more effectively. Professor Kar said that there has been guidance from the state on the Disaster Relief executive order that will determine how USC meets in the future. President Killeen said that there are ongoing discussions concerning Covid-19

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of September 27, 2021

communications and policies related to the system. There will be continued consultation with USC.

President Killeen provided an update on the UIS Chancellor search.

President Killeen said that the DPI annual report was recently issued. He commented on tech talent development, teacher training programs, the twelve science teams, and funding. EVP Ghosh discussed the recent statement on Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) for DPI.

(The meeting recessed at 11:50 a.m. and resumed at 1:05 p.m.)

- II. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of June 24, 2021
Approval of University Senates Conference Organizational Minutes of June 24, 2021

The minutes were approved by roll call vote.

- III. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Kar had no remarks.

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

There were recommendations to ask the President follow-up questions on the following topics: enrollment numbers and policies; an apparent shift in DPI's mission that seems to move away from community outreach, social sciences, and the arts and humanities, and moves almost exclusively to tech talent; DPI certificates; grant competition with DPI; and the path to DPI self-sufficient funding.

Explanation of File Numbers

ST - University of Illinois *Statutes*

GR - *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*

NC - Nominating Committee

OT - All other items

- V. Old Business - Action Items

There was no old business for action.

- VI. New Business

1. USC Observer to Board of Trustees meeting:

Thursday, September 23, 2021,

Urbana-Champaign

Sudeep Sharma

2. Enrollment Management Policy Council (EMPC) – USC representative

Monday, September 13, 2021

Donald Wink

3. USC Retreat – discussion of topics and guests

USC members discussed the two-day schedule for the retreat, topics to discuss during the retreat, and possible guests to invite. USC members decided to hold the retreat in-person. How to meet for the remainder of the semester was not clear.

VII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

4. USC Presentations to the Board of Trustees.

Professor Kar said that he would give a report to the Board on September 23, which will highlight USC's goals for the coming year. The group discussed goals to include.

5. 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 5/6/21.

There was no new information.

6. ST-83. Revisions to the *Statutes* – new proposed revisions and proposed revisions from ST-77 that need further discussion (B File). Sent to the Executive Vice President 5/1/20.

Professor Burbules reported that the USC Statutes and Governance Committee recommends that USC vote to send the proposed revisions in ST-83 to the senates along with a transmittal letter and supplemental documents prepared by the SGC. USC approved the recommendation by roll call vote.

7. 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.

8. ST-85. Proposed Revisions to the *Statute*, 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 Senates 3/8/21. Passed UIS Senate 3/26/21. Transmitted to the President 4/5/21.

9. 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 Senates 10/21/20. Passed UIS Senate 4/9/21. Transmitted to President 5/5/21.

[Items 7-9: ST-84, ST-85, ST-86] Professor Burbules reported that these items have been sent to the President. He explained that the Board wants statutory revisions in packets, rather than one at a time. These items will be held until ST-83 has gone through the senates. He encouraged the senates to act on ST-83 with the understanding that these other items are being held up. Professor Burbules hoped that the senates could finish their work by the end of the spring semester.

10. University Senates Conference Guests.

The Conference discussed guests to invite to future meetings.

11. University Updates.

Updates were given on important issues at each university.

12. OT-142. External Groups with USC Representatives: Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee (Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, Aria Razfar); Enrollment Management Policy Council (Donald Wink); President's Executive Leadership Program (Aria Razfar); U of I System Going Forward: Excellence Amid COVID-19 Steering Committee (John Dallesasse); University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council (Michael Stroschio).

There were no reports as none of the groups had met.

13. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

Academic Affairs and Research Committee	Aria Razfar
Finance, Budget, and Benefits Committee	Roy Campbell
Statutes and Governance Committee	Nick Burbules

AARC: Professor Razfar said the committee discussed how the system can support research initiatives, K-12 to community college pipeline, and equity and access issues.

FFBC: Professor Campbell said the committee will be gathering information on various issues. They would like to focus on salaries, insurance, how budget decisions are made throughout the system, and how DPI and IIN budgets work.

SGC: Professor Maher said that the committee will be looking at the USC Bylaws.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.