

MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, June 24, 2021

PLACE: Videoconference

PRESENT: Brennan, Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote, Dutta, Erricolo, Fisher, Jenkins, Kar (Vice Chair), Maher, Razfar, Span, Strahle, Stroschio, Varden, Wade (Chair), Zhan

ABSENT: Hunt, Steinberg

GUESTS: Nicholas Burbules, Prasanta Kalita, Timothy Killeen, Ethan Simmons, Joyce Tolliver, Celest Weuve, Barbara Wilson, Donald Wink

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

I. Meeting with President Killeen and Executive Vice President Wilson

President Killeen commented that the state of the university is good. He said that the Board would be meeting face-to-face in July and noted that there was an in-person event for Executive Vice President (EVP) Wilson. The President said that while we are losing an Executive Vice President, we are celebrating Barb.

President Killeen provided various updates. Acceptances are up, there was an analysis of what to do about vaccinations, and there will be a requirement for testing and mask wearing for those who have not been vaccinated. The system intends to have the safest possible working environment. There will be more face-to-face instruction. SHIELD Illinois saliva testing is being used at over 300 sites. There are also huge challenges, such as student mental health and improving diversity, equity, and inclusion. The President mentioned the changing role of student athletes and the importance of thinking through how these changes will be managed. President Killeen said that with EVP Wilson's leadership, ten new interdisciplinary projects are being launched. He discussed the importance of both STEM and the Humanities. He also mentioned the innovation agenda and remodeling projects for Altgeld Hall, Illini Hall, and the Hospital.

President Killeen asked EVP Wilson to share her thoughts on shared governance. She said that working with President Killeen has been phenomenal. USC is really special to her. Working with students and faculty energize her. Faculty are the heart and soul of the university, and she wants to know how to support faculty in their teaching, research, and service. Faculty inspire the system administration to work hard and remind them of the faculty perspective. She commented that faculty don't get a lot of credit for the extra work they do, but the work matters. EVP Wilson said that she has worked hard to elevate the concept of shared governance and senses that it is stronger than it has ever been. There is trust and we are fighting for the same things.

USC members thanked EVP Wilson and mentioned some of the programs where she has provided leadership, such as the Op Ed Project through the Public Voices Fellowship and the President's Executive Leadership Program.

President Killeen talked about some of the endowment gifts that have been received and will support students from underrepresented backgrounds. The Altogether Extraordinary campaign is coming towards an end. He also discussed plans for a salary program, recognizing that salaries have fallen behind.

President Killeen discussed accommodations for in-person learning now that Illinois is in Phase 5. We want a fully vaccinated student body, but some people are not able to get vaccinated. The system wants to require vaccines but has not used the word “mandate.” Employees will be expected to return to work. The announcement for students will come out first so they have time to be fully vaccinated before classes start. Each university will have its own set of guidance.

EVP Wilson said that tuition revenue is up as more students are enrolled. President Killeen commented on support for the Arts and Humanities.

President Killeen mentioned a new position, assistant to the president, that would be filled by rotating faculty members. The position will pick up components of EVP Wilson’s portfolio and will be a temporary position. This will bring more faculty voices to the system level.

EVP Wilson thanked USC for its attention to the matter of a consultation process for system-wide policies and the document that USC created. There is growing consensus that the USC document will be an appendix to the system document. The group discussed the benefits of early and wide consultation for not only system-wide policies, but also for statutory revisions. President Killeen commented that proposed statutory revisions will most likely go to the Board bundled together.

President Killeen said that the Discover Partners Institute (DPI) is moving forward. Hundreds of faculty are involved. Programs include experiences for underrepresented groups, tech talent, training teachers to teach Computer Science, and working with community colleges.

The group discussed the pros and cons of teaching online in terms of the student experience, mental health, and privacy issues.

Professor Wade thanked EVP Wilson and President Killeen for sharing their time with USC this past year.

(The meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m. and resumed at 2:05 p.m. after the Organizational Meeting.)

II. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of May 24, 2021

Professor Fisher moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Erricolo and approved unanimously.

III. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Wade discussed her hesitation to become the USC Chair, being a junior faculty

member, and coming up for tenure. She said that everyone helped make the job so much easier. USC had a lot to do this past year and did it remotely. She thanked everyone.

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

USC discussed how the group would meet this coming academic year, taking into consideration safety and OMA regulations. With health concerns becoming diminished, USC members felt that there would be benefits from resuming in-person meetings. Professor Wade said she discussed the issue with President Killeen and EVP Wilson, and they supported meeting in person most of the time. They suggested meeting by videoconference in February as well as January. USC members felt that using Zoom for those who could not attend in person would be much better than calling in. Professor De Groote suggested that USC meeting in person eight times and by videoconference two times. Professor Dallesasse made this into a motion that was seconded by Professor Danziger and approved unanimously by roll call.

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, July 22, 2021,

Chicago

Helga Varden

VII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

2. NC-27. Nominating Committee for 2021-2022 Officers, Executive Committee, and USC Committees.

The work of the Nominating Committee is complete.

3. OT-326. USC Presentations to the Board of Trustees.

Professor Wade welcomed suggestions for the USC Chair's annual report to the Board that she would give on July 22. USC members provided advice.

4. 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.

Professor Wade commented that this item was discussed with EVP Wilson during the morning session.

5. 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 these additional proposed revisions to the *Statutes* would be ready to go to USC and then the senates in the fall.

6. 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.

No new information

7. 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.

No new information.

8. 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.

No new information.

9. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

The Conference discussed guests to invite to future meetings.

10. University Updates.

Professor Fisher reported that Interim Chancellor Whitney would continue with a search starting next year. There is a new position at the vice chancellor level that expands administrative affairs. Professor Stroschio said that Echo cameras are being put in lecture halls to prepare for hybrid teaching. Provost Poser has left UIC.

11. OT-142. External Groups with USC Representatives: Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee (Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, Aria Razfar); Enrollment Management Policy Council (Magic Wade); President's Executive Leadership Program (Sandra De Groot); Student Mental Health Services Summit Working Group (Cecil Hunt); System-wide Digital Accessibility Policy (Magic Wade); U of I System Going Forward: Excellence Amid COVID-19 Steering Committee (John Dallesasse); University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council (Michael Stroschio).

DAP: Professor Wade said that the group continues to work on implementation guidelines and work with vendors.

DPI EC: Professor Jenkins reported that Professor Razfar had been elected Chair of the DPI Executive Committee. Professor Razfar said that he is arranging for the Executive Committee to have time to have its own space to discuss issues. said that the group is in the process of electing a chair. Professor Jenkins said that the committee is trying to get more information on skills certificates for graduate programs. Professor Stroschio said that the committee received an update on a cost-sharing policy. USC members discussed the lack of communication between DPI and the universities.

12. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

Academic Affairs and Research Committee
Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee
Statutes and Governance Committee

Aria Razfar
Roy Campbell
Sandy De Groot

There were no reports.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.