

University Senates Conference  
**Statutes and Governance Committee**  
**Minutes**

DATE: Thursday, June 26, 2025

PLACE: I Hotel & Conference Center, Lincoln Room, 1900 S 1<sup>st</sup> St, Champaign, IL

PRESENT: De Groote, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Maher, Moorhouse, Tolliver, Wink

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Charles Roseman

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Professor De Groote.

II. Approval of remote participation

None

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval of minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from May 28, 2025 by Professor Wink and seconded by Professor Fisher. No discussion. The minutes were approved by a voice vote by SGC Members and the one member attending online.

Yes: De Groote, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Maher, Moorhouse, Tolliver, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

A motion was made to approve the minutes from June 13, 2025 by Professor Moorhouse and seconded by Professor Floros. No discussion. The minutes were approved by a voice vote by SGC Members and the one member attending online.

Yes: De Groote, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Maher, Moorhouse, Tolliver, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

V. Today's Business

a. Discuss ST-83

A discussion was held about the process and new proposed revisions to the USC *Bylaws*. The process for addressing revisions to ST-83 was held. Professor De Groote agreed to document the proposed changes that no one commented on. SGC agreed that S&G needs to start meeting monthly in August. They will document all proposed changes going forward with rationale and this will be archived in a spreadsheet started by the committee.

Once various progress has been made on proposed changes to ST-83, the EVP Jones's "big group" [which includes EVP Jones, Sarah Gantz, Scott Rice, Jami

Painter, Michael Melendez, and S&G USC members, and USC Chair if interested] will be involved. Discussion was held on the change made to the definition of academic freedom. Some felt the timing of the change where it was inserted into ST-83 revised was out of step with the process and outside the scope of ST-83 – the change should be proposed separately if someone wants to propose it.

A motion was made by Professor Tolliver and seconded by Professor Maher to postpone the discussion on academic freedom and discuss at a later time. A brief discussion was held. The motion passed by a voice vote by SGC Members.

Yes: De Groote, Fisher, Hale, Maher, Moorhouse, Tolliver, Wink

No: Floros

Abstain: None

A motion was made by Professor Floros and seconded by Professor De Groote to revise and reject the proposed definition of academic freedom in the revised version of ST-83 to remove the term scholarly expertise and return to scholarly interest. A brief discussion was held. The motion passed by a voice vote by SGC Members.

Yes: De Groote, Fisher, Hale, Wink

No: Maher, Moorhouse, Tolliver

Abstain: None

b. Discuss USC *Bylaws*

A motion was made by Professor Maher and seconded by Professor Tolliver to remove the word “secret” and replace it with “written” in the USC Bylaws. The Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) does not permit anonymous voting. A brief discussion was held. The motion passed by a voice vote by SGC Members.

Yes: De Groote, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Maher, Moorhouse, Tolliver, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

A motion was made by Professor Tolliver and seconded by Professor Fisher to share the proposed changes to the USC Bylaws with the conference and add it to the August USC Meeting Agenda. No discussion. The motion passed by a voice vote by SGC Members.

Yes: De Groote, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Maher, Moorhouse, Tolliver, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

A motion was made by Professor Tolliver and seconded by Professor Fisher to notify the conference in today’s meeting of the proposed revisions to the USC *Bylaws*. No discussion. The motion passed by a voice vote by SGC Members.

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Yes: De Groote, Fisher, Floros, Hale, Maher, Moorhouse, Tolliver, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

VI. New Business  
None

VII. Old Business – Action Items  
None

VIII. Adjournment  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Information for the minutes provided by Professor De Groote.

David Perryn  
USC Administration