

University Senates Conference
Executive Committee Zoom Conference

MINUTES

October 19th, 2021
1:33 p.m.
Zoom Videoconference

Present: Rob Kar (Chair), Bill Maher, Ann Strahle, Michael Stroschio, Sandy De Groote, Lori Bender (Office Manager)

Approve Minutes of September 7th, 2021, Meeting

Corrections add letter “s” in the middle of Michael Stroschio’s name at top of the page, change the “investigates” to “investigated” and correct the misspelling of carrying. No other changes or modifications. Kar moves to approve the minutes with the three requested changes. De Groote seconds the motion.

Roll Call: Maher, yes; Stroschio, yes; Kar, yes; De Groote, yes; Strahle, yes.

Discussion of Topics for President Killeen and Interim Executive Vice President Ghosh

Moving forward the EC will keep the President’s questions/topics to a total of 3 to 5 each meeting; however, noted this as a guideline, not a rule. Question #1 would remain as the standard first question each month (“We would like to begin by inviting you to raise any topics or issues that you would like to bring independently to the USC’s attention”) and would not be counted in the 3-5.

Questions to discuss with President during the next USC meeting, November 23, 2021:

- Updates on current activity with relation to the USC goals presented during the September Board of Trustees meeting
- Administrative oversight of IIN and DPI. For this topic, it was suggested to invite Jay Walsh (Bender to consult with President’s office for further input on the invitation).
- Enrollment discrepancy within the System
- How the USC could assist the System with improving the quality and reach of hybrid learning for all three universities.

Guests to consider inviting for future meetings

- The EC would like to meet with each chancellor yet this academic year; starting with the UIC Chancellor in January if possible as the USC did not meet with Chancellor Amiridis last year.

EC discussed whether there was a procedural formality to alert the President before meeting with a Chancellor. De Groote did not feel that there was however Kar, and De Groote agreed it would be best practice to at least notify the President's office once a Chancellor has accepted an invite to a USC meeting and then include the President on formal correspondence.

- The EC discussed meeting with student representative(s) as well. There were mixed thoughts on the best way to accomplish this. Stroschio mentioned that prior to Zoom meetings when USC met with each Chancellor on their campus this presented a natural opportunity for the student body to join; however, since meetings are still being held via video conference, he did not feel that meeting simultaneously was necessary. Kar mentioned that student representatives from each campus had met together during a previous year's retreat, but the same could be done during a regular monthly meeting as this brings a unique opportunity to hear from the student body. Stroschio mentioned that the topic(s) should be concerned when making the discussion on how to invite student representatives. Kar felt this was a good point which the EC will circle back to.

USC Business Agenda items

- How to best solicit USC member's questions and concerns for the President
Kar explains the reason for this agenda item. Stating there are two models in which this has occurred so far this year. The model used today is one in which the EC member recalls topics, questions, and or concerns discussed during the monthly USC meeting; then comes together to discuss these and culminate questions for the President. Or the other model, one that has also been utilized this year is one in which the EC elicits, through conversations during the USC meeting and by directly requesting members submit any questions or concerns they have and then the EC would make the final decision on what would be addressed to the President. Kar expresses that either way it's important that USC members' concerns are being heard and the EC does not simply sift through the USC questions and simply choose the best 3 or 4 and discount the others, but rather use this as an opportunity to consolidate and make efficient one way in which the EC gets ideas and concerns from USC members and suggested a couple of ways this could be accomplished. 1) the office manager could send out an email to solicit and collect ideas directly from USC members with an understanding that final questions would be at the sole discretion of the EC and/or a discussion item could be added to the USC's monthly agenda. Stroschio feels that reaching out for some input from the USC could be helpful if there is a clear understanding of the final decision regarding questions. Stroschio recalls last year there was more reliance on the EC to come up with the questions on their own than during previous years but either way has worked; he does agree that it's important to give everyone a chance to have input

Stroschio votes to have the President's questions solicited via email by the office manager and as a discussion item during the monthly USC business meeting, De Groote seconds.

Roll Call Vote: Stroschio, yes, De Groote, yes; Maher, yes; Strahle, yes; Kar, yes.

Chair Kar and Bender will work together on an email to send to USC soliciting questions

New Business

Add additional items to EC and USC agenda template

Meeting adjourned.