

**University Senates Conference**  
Executive Committee Conference Call

**Minutes**

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
1:30 pm  
Zoom Videoconference

*The next USC meeting yearly retreat will be September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021.*

**Present:** Chair Rob Kar, Ann Strahle, William Maher, Michael Strocio, Celest Weuve

**Approve Amended Minutes of August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting**

- Strocio motions to approve minutes. Maher seconds. No requests for discussion. Roll call is taken, Kar, Maher, Strocio and Weuve approve. Strahle abstains. The motion was approved.

**Approve Minutes of August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Meeting**

- Kar suggests amendments to August 18 minutes and shares his suggestion on screen. Maher moves to approve amended minutes. Weuve seconds. Roll call is taken Kar, Maher, Strocio, Weuve approve. Strahle abstains. The motion for amended minutes was approved.

**Topics for President Killeen and Interim Executive Vice President Ghosh**

- Discussed topics such as:
  1. Can you give us an update on the budget, both with respect to where we currently stand and any special issues that you foresee arising in this coming academic year? We would appreciate your including specific attention to the following items:
    - state funding;
    - any COVID-related funding from the federal government; and
    - any other relevant changes or updates that may have an impact on the budget?
  2. Discussion was held surrounding UIUC sexual misconduct case and whether to present this as a question to the President. It was suggested by Maher that it might be more appropriately presented to the President in a closed session. It was also suggested that the question should be framed in a way that align with shared governance. It was decided that Kar would draft this question and present it to the committee for further input.

3. Strahl suggests that the questions for the president should not be overloaded to allow ample time for the questions to be answered and for a discussion to take place with the USC surrounding the question. Maher agrees. Weuve also suggests that this will allow the President time to update the USC on things going on behind the scenes.

### **Discussion of Topic for The Discovery Partners Institute (DPI)**

- Committee discusses questions Lori has been compiling that the USC would like to present to DPI during the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was decided that these questions would be presented to DPI in a letter prior to meeting so that DPI can prepare to answer questions. Strocio presented a question, but it was agreed upon that this question should be presented to Ghosh during the President's question rather than to DPI.

### **Discussion of updated OMA guidance and meeting logistics**

- Broad support for retreat to be in person, however governing chair of the body has the ability to call Zoom meetings. Chair Kar suggests different option for carrying out remaining USC meeting following OMA guidelines. Strahl suggests holding the retreat in person but then going back to Zoom meeting for November and December with the hopes that Spring 2022 will allow for some in-person meeting. Strocio 2nds this idea. Weuve expresses concerns that it might be difficult to stay in compliance with OMA since the governor is deciding the guidelines on a month-by-month basis. Chair Kar feels that the USC should be safe in holding meeting via Zoom through the end of the year as Zoom meeting. He does not feel that the governor's executive orders are going to specifically identify OMA anymore; that phase has passed, however he does feel that there will be disaster orders at least through December because of the growing issues around the Delta variant and that the Attorney General's guidance to what the governing body can do will stay the same. Maher voices his concerns that the technology of hybrid meetings should be investigated as the option for this type of meeting is very important moving forward. Strocio recalls previous meeting that were not fully in person, some people would call in, his concern or rather question was if the call ins could vote under OMA rules. Kar discusses how historically January and February meetings took place as, not "hybrid meetings", but rather 3 physical locations were set up on the 3 campuses and so long as a quorum was met then people could call in and vote so long as they met the statutory grounds for not meeting in person such as health reasons or professional conflicts reasons and notice to the public had to be made. It's a little unclear how this was being done, but it wasn't done using Zoom and it wasn't a hybrid meeting, but this might be a good time to consider holding a hybrid meeting. Chair Kar's understanding was that these meeting were considered satellite meeting and met the pre-COVID OMA rule requirements. Weuve suggests trying a hybrid meeting for and Executive committee meeting to see how the technology goes before moving forward with creating a hybrid meeting for the USA. Chair Kar concurs with that idea.

- Chair Kar motions that the USC has an in person meeting for the retreat and has, if OMA permits, the November and December USC meetings via zoom and plan for a more normal spring semester and over this term the Executive committee will be working with the System office to trouble shoot a hybrid model that may be implemented in the spring. Weuve seconds the motion.
- Roll Call vote is taken: Kar, Weuve, Strocio, Maher and Strahl are all in favor. Motion approved.

### **Guests to consider inviting for future meetings**

- The Chancellors
- The law school
- The medical school
- Someone from IIN in their relationship to DPI – Jay Walsh – it was discussed to invite IIN for the retreat, but after further discussed it was decided to have them as guests at during another meeting.

### **USC Business Agenda items**

- Discussed agenda for business meeting and retreat on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Lunch at noon on the 27<sup>th</sup>
  - President on 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Dpi on 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Business meeting on 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Reception at the President's house on 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Dinner on 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Short meeting in the evening to for short introduction and brainstorming session
  - No speaker on 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Ad hoc committee will decide who to invite as speakers for the 28<sup>th</sup> retreat portion
  - A few breaks in between sessions both days 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>
- Have subcommittees meet a week before
- Lori and Rob to finalize the details

*The meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm*

Next USC Meeting to be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, via Zoom:

<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/84049284621?pwd=U0wvdGFtRWs2cnN0czdlYTlnqEIfUT09&from=addon>