

**UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

October 3, 2025, 2:30 p.m.

The USC Executive Meeting was held in the following public locations:

University of Illinois Chicago
Richard Daley Library, Room 1-360
801 S Morgan St
Chicago, IL, 60607

University of Illinois Springfield
University Hall Building, Room 2010
2180 Vachel Lindsay Dr
Springfield, IL 62703

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Henry Administration Building, Room 380
506 S Wright St
Urbana, IL 61801

The next USC meeting will be held on October 15-16, 2025, at UIUC.

Present: Sandra De Groote, Lynn Fisher, Angela Lyons (online), Hanfu Mi, Joyce Tolliver, Donald Wink

Absent: None

I. Call to Order

Professor De Groote called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Mr. Perryn called the role.

Members present by location:

UIC: Sandra De Groote, Donald Wink

UIS: Lynn Fisher, Hanfu Mi

UIUC: Angela Lyons, Joyce Tolliver

III. Approval of remote participation

None

IV. Public Comment

None

Professor Wink joined at 2:45 p.m. and departed at 3:48 p.m.

V. Approval of Minutes from September 5, 2025

A motion was made by Professor Tolliver and seconded by Professor Lyons to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2025, meeting. No discussion. The minutes were approved by a roll call vote.

Yes: De Groote, Fisher, Lyons, Mi, Tolliver, Wink

No: None
Abstain: None

VI. Discussion of Topics for President Killeen & EVP Jones

Professor De Groote inquired with EC about topics for the next meeting:

- a. Update on Discovery Partners Institute (DPI):
 - i. Faculty and student involvement from UIC, UIS, and UIUC
 - ii. Employment plan for programs that are winding down
 - iii. Plan for the DPI Executive Committee
- b. What will happen with DEI Statements being removed from promotion and tenure dossiers? What are the considerations for colleges or units that have diversity type statements as their norm? Will there be any changes related to bias training for search committees?
- c. Update on ideas that exist on initiatives for online education with the System and the three universities. What can the System do to provide infrastructure for online education? Are there any concerns with being in competition with the System? Is there a plan for faculty at each campus to offer more programs of this type?
- d. Can leadership and legal counsel obtain input through faculty consultation on federal changes? .

Professor Lyons departed the meeting at 3:01 p.m. and returned at 3:33 p.m.

VII. USC Business Agenda Items

- a. DPI check-in

VIII. Old Business – Action Items

None

IX. New Business

None

X. Guests to consider inviting for future meetings

EC suggested inviting Paul Weinberger and Jennifer Creasey to an upcoming meeting to discuss government relations. EC inquired about the possibility of an academic freedom symposium structured in the way the mental health has been. The UI System would be responsible for finding speakers to present. EC also suggested inviting Scott Rice to discuss academic freedom. EC mentioned the impacts of AI on teaching and research activities, in addition to ethics and privacy. Mr. Perryn will contact Professor Maher for input.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Professor De Groote at 3:52 p.m.

David Perryn
USC Administration