

**MINUTES**  
University Senates Conference  
Academic Affairs and Research Committee  
Wednesday Jan. 24, 2018, at 1 p.m. by phone conference

Present: B. DeBerry-Spence; B. Francis; P. Kalita; W. Maher; and K. Novak, Chair

**New Business**

Discuss USC presentation to the Board of Trustees, March 15, in Urbana. Planned topic: Big data in the Humanities.

We discussed a focus on research in the Humanities. Members will inform the USC of the topic at the next meeting on Friday, Jan. 26, and then proceed. Maher, who proposed the topic and a potential presenter, will contact History Professor Robert Morrissey. Morrissey's research focuses on the French colonists and Native peoples of the Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes in the 17th and 18th centuries. The committee is looking for research that contains the "linkages" that connect research to the greater community. DeBerry-Spence also suggested Chicago Professor of Jewish Studies and English, Rachel Havrelock, who is doing work with the Fresh Water Lab and research on the Great Lakes, as a possibility. We will keep Dr. Havrelock in mind.

**Old Business**

- A. AARC members at our December meeting chose to conduct a review/assessment of the purpose, communication, topics and meeting frequency of the Faculty Advisory Committee for System Academic Affairs (FACSAA).

After further discussion the committee concluded that since the formation of the FACSAA under VP Wilson is only in its second year, it is premature to review.

**Next Meeting:**

Week of Feb. 12, TBA.