

MINUTES<sup>1</sup>  
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Tuesday, January 26, 2021

PLACE: Videoconference

PRESENT: Brennan, Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote, Dutta, Erricolo, Fisher, Jenkins, Kar (Vice Chair), Maher, Razfar, Span, Steinberg, Strahle, Stroschio, Varden, Wade (Chair), Zhan

ABSENT: Hunt

GUESTS: Jennifer Creasey, Timothy Killeen, Paul Weinberger, Barbara Wilson

Professor Wade, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

I. Meeting with President Killeen and Executive Vice President Wilson

President Killeen briefly discussed the Board of Trustees meeting. He mentioned that Chancellor Whitney's interim appointment had been extended.

The President said that the search for a Vice President for External Relations and Communications was underway and noted that Executive Vice President (EVP) Wilson is chairing the search committee. She provided an update on the search and discussed the new position.

President Killeen thanked the Senates Conference members for everything they had done in 2020. He mentioned some of the challenges that have been faced, such as changes in pedagogy, mental health issues, economics, and family life. He commented that university systems like ours help anchor and provide leadership to communities. The President said that he is proud of all the work the system has done throughout the pandemic.

President Killeen discussed the decision by the Board to approve a 0% tuition increase once again. The move demonstrates the systems commitment to the public good by avoiding shifting costs to families. He noted all the hard work that has been done by EVP Wilson, the provosts, and the chancellors.

President Killeen reported that the system is still working on getting FDA approval of the saliva-based test that was developed at UIUC. There will be a sense of caution as we go into the new semester, especially if there are variances of the virus here. The President said that each university has a different approach on the vaccine front, based on local public health guidelines. UIS is now a designated operational site. The President commented that Vice President Walsh is completely focused on COVID-19 issues at this time.

President Killeen and EVP Wilson provided an update on enrollment numbers, which are up at UIUC and down at UIC and UIS.

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<sup>1</sup>Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of February 24, 2021

President Killeen commented that the SHIELD enterprise is going well. There are about ten sites gearing up. The Governor has provided the system with \$20M to support testing. SHIELD T3, which is for entities external to Illinois, has several partners, which includes universities, factories, and companies both national and international.

President Killeen provided budget updates. The first round of federal relief provided about \$70M to the system, with additional money going to the hospital. The second bill provides \$95M for the system; one-third of which would go to student needs and two-thirds of which would go to costs for the COVID response. The Board approved a budget request for an 8.5% increase. Budget testimony to the legislature will be in late March. The system needs to recruit and retain more faculty. The first round of DPI/IIN funding has been released. The President briefly discussed a possible salary program and philanthropy revenues. He also reported that UIC set a record in research grants last year with \$410M.

President Killeen commented on the system's role as a public higher education institution in the current political climate. The system needs to deliver on an agenda that includes social equity and technology. He discussed an exciting consortium of institutions throughout the Midwest that are engaging in a public serving innovation agenda with the U of I system taking a leadership role.

President Killeen said that the U of I is ahead of other institutions in college athletics with its daily saliva testing, which is more reliable than the antigen testing used by most other institutions. Lessons learned during the fall will be applied in the spring.

President Killeen mentioned that a standard five-year review of the UIC and UIUC chancellors is being launched.

President Killeen discussed ongoing efforts to improve mental health support and policing. Efforts include new community boards and embedded social scientists in police units. The three police chiefs and the Police Training Institute director are working together.

The group briefly discussed the system's retirement plans through SURS.

## II. Jennifer Creasey and Paul Weinberger, Governmental Relations

Jennifer Creasey and Paul Weinberger joined the meeting at 11:00 a.m. President Killeen said that Ms. Creasey, State Relations, is an expert in stopping bad bills. She has provided great leadership in Springfield. Paul Weinberger, Federal Relations, lives in D.C. and has direct contact with staffers and key members of the Illinois delegation in Congress. He has worked to develop the agenda at the federal level.

Ms. Creasey commented that State Relations communicates to help advocate for the University of Illinois System. The number one priority is the state appropriation. The recent budget impasse was a wake-up call for higher education in Illinois. Higher education is positioning itself as a mechanism for ramping up the economy by attracting business and students. Important relationships are built throughout state government. The U of I System can have a big role in the post-COVID economy. We want legislators to see that and invest in public higher education.

The system is asking for an 8.5% increase in its state appropriation. State Relations is working with the leadership and staff in the U of I caucus. 39% of the general caucus are alums. Ms. Creasey commented that they are pulling out all stops in advocacy. She encouraged members to sign up for Illinois Connections.

State Relations is anticipating a rough budget year. Pension problems could be exasperated. Ms. Creasey said they are doing everything possible to support the U of I System. A lot of the focus is on the equity for our students and vendors and increasing MAP grant funding. The office is working with their counterparts to fund a more uniform, statewide bridge program. They are also working on making procurement code policies more attractive to a diverse set of vendors. Her office has been promoting other regulatory relief legislation for years. They are working on the reinstatement of the certificate of participation, which better allows more capital programs without relying on the state. State Relations also defends against bad policies.

When asked how State Relations supports diversity, Ms. Creasey responded that they work on supporting inclusion as they go through bills. They want to encourage students to stay in Illinois for school and they want them to be college ready. The conversations continue to evolve, and they are working towards productive policies.

Mr. Weinberger referred to the list of eleven priorities that are of the most importance to the University of Illinois System. The number one issue since March has been pandemic relief. Federal Relations advocated for the CARES Act in March, which sent \$75M directly to the system and other funds indirectly, and the next round which will provide \$95M. This is only a fraction of our needs. He was pleased that the Biden administration is proposing \$1.9T in a new relief package, which would also provide relief to the state and local governments.

Federal Relations is also advocating for \$26B for liability protections and research agencies to make up for delays in grants across the board. They are also advocating for affordability and excellence in higher education through programs such as the Pell Grant and TRIO program, as well as student debt relief. They will be making bigger requests for NIH and NSF funding.

Mr. Weinberger said that he is optimistic about immigration reform under the new administration. One big challenge will be looking at foreign influences and unfriendly foreign countries. Part of the job of his operation is educating lawmakers on the need to collaborate with other countries.

When asked how private versus public higher education institutions are impacted differently, particularly with student loan relief, Mr. Weinberger responded that most of the money for higher education in the proposed \$1.9B relief package goes to public universities. There is a great appreciation for the value of public universities.

Responding to a comment that students interested in cybersecurity have to go to the coasts, Mr. Weinberger said that the Midwest gets overlooked. DPI could possibly address this. President Killeen added that we have amazing prospects in cybersecurity and student job opportunities. The Midwest consortium could have a part in this, too. EVP Wilson commented that there is an opportunity to showcase research in a way that the public can

understand it more now than ever. We should be working on demonstrating the importance of graduate students in these enterprises. We could not be doing everything we do without the work of grads in places such as the Vet Med testing lab and pharmacies that provide vaccinations. We are also relying deeply on the work in humanities on issues such as ethics, quality, and disparities. Jennifer and Paul can take those stories to the legislators.

Mr. Weinberg commented that Federal Relations lobbies on behalf of programs for teacher education at the K-12 level. Ms. Creasey said that, at the state level, thinking on educational issues covers K-20 rather than mostly on higher education. The process has become more blended over the last several years.

The group discussed efforts that focus on the underserved populations. This involves bringing in the Humanities as well as technology.

When asked about the new Illinois Speaker of the House, Ms. Creasey said that she is very excited about Speaker Welch. He used to be the Chair of the Higher Education Committee, is a John Marshall alum, and has been a good friend to the University.

Ms. Creasey indicated that it has been a bit difficult working in governmental relations in a virtual manner, but they have been able to bring in students and faculty to meet virtually with legislators. Mr. Weinberger commented that this has been a difficult period nationally with the attack on the Capitol and a narrowly divided Congress.

Professor Wade thanked Ms. Creasey and Mr. Weinberger for all they do and for a productive conversation.

(The meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. and resumed 1:00 p.m.)

### III. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of December 1, 2020

Professor Fisher moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Strahle and approved unanimously.

### IV. Classification of Senate Minutes

Class I:	Matters of policy affecting one campus only. Item is sent to the President and Board of Trustees for action.
Class II:	Matters affecting more than one campus. Item is sent to Senate(s) for action, then to President and Board of Trustees. At the time of this classification, the Conference member will file with the recording secretary an accurate final copy of the Senate action.
Class III:	Amendments to the <i>University of Illinois Statutes</i> . Procedure is the same as with Class II items. At the time of reporting this classification, the Conference member will file with the recording secretary an accurate final copy of the Senate action.

Class N:	This designation requires no USC action, but alerts one or more Senates to an item of interest from the originating Senate. The "N" is preceded by and followed by a lower case letter(s); c = Chicago; s = Springfield; u = Urbana-Champaign; usc = University Senates Conference. Example: "cNs,u" means that a matter has come up in the Chicago Senate, which may be of interest to Springfield and Urbana-Champaign.
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Professor Strahle moved to approve the classification of senate minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Kar and approved unanimously.

A. The following items were classified I by the University Senates Conference:

1. University of Illinois at Chicago, December 3, 2020

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| PR-21.18 | Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering by Removing the Fundamentals of Engineering Examination as a Graduation Requirement |
| PR-21.19 | Proposal to Establish the Concentration in Human Resource Management in the Master of Business Administration                                       |
| PR-21.20 | Proposal to Establish the Minor in Human Resource Management  |
| PR-21.21 | Proposal to Establish the Joint Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy/Master of Public Policy   |
| PR-21.22 | Proposal to Establish the Joint Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy/Master of Urban Planning and Policy   |
| PR-21.23 | Proposal to Establish the Joint Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy/Master of Science in Civic Analytics  |
| PR-21.24 | Proposal to Establish the Joint Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies/Master of Public Administration   |
| PR-21.25 | Proposal to Establish the Joint Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies/Master of Public Policy   |
| PR-21.26 | Proposal to Establish the Joint Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies/Master of Science in Civic Analytics  |
| PR-21.27 | Proposal to Establish the Real Estate Studies (RES) Course Subject  |
| PR-21.28 | Proposal to Establish the Minor in Real Estate  |
| PR-21.29 | Proposal to Eliminate the Minor in Geography  |

- PR-21.30 Proposal to Revise the Minor in Chinese
- PR-21.32 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Philosophy
- PR-21.33 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Science in the Teaching of Mathematics
- CP-21.01 Proposal to Rename the Advanced Practice Palliative Care Nursing Certificate and Revise Certificate Admission Requirements
- CI-21.01 Proposal to Eliminate the City Design Center

2. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, December 7, 2020

- EP.21.025 Agricultural Education, MS (on campus & online) -- Proposal to phase-out the AGED MS degree program in Agricultural Education. This is part of a multi-element change with the proposal to create a new MS degree program in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications.
- EP.21.026 Agricultural & Biological Engineering, PhD -- Revision of Curriculum Requirements for the Ph.D. in Agricultural & Biological Engineering to add a 96-Credit Hour Option, Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering (ABE), The Grainger College of Engineering
- EP.21.027 Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications, MS (on campus & online) -- Proposal to create a new MS degree program in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications, also requesting a non-degree code for this program. This is part of a multi-element change with the proposal to phase-out the AGED MS degree program in Agricultural Education.
- EP.21.029 Creative Writing, BALAS -- Revision to the BALAS in Creative Writing
- EP.21.030 Statistics, MS -- Revising the MS in Statistics
- EP.21.031 Statistics: Analytics, MS -- Revising the MS in Statistics Concentration in Analytics
- EP.21.033 Animal Sciences, MANSC (on campus & online) -- Revision of the Animal Sciences, MANSC to change the program requirements and the delivery method to include online delivery. The revisions also impact the 4+1 BS/MANSC and the 4+1BS(CS+ANSC)/MANSC degrees

- EP.21.035 Animal Sciences BS & MANSC -- Revisions to the 4+1 BS/MANSC due to the program requirements changes and addition of online delivery to the Animal Sciences, MANSC. The revisions also impact Animal Sciences, MANSC and 4+1BS(CS+ANSC)/MANSC degrees
- EP.21.036 Computer Science & Animal Sciences, BS & Animal Science, MANSC -- Revisions to the 4+1BS(CS+ANSC)/MANSC due to the program requirements changes and addition of online delivery to the Animal Sciences, MANSC. The revisions also impact Animal Sciences, MANSC and 4+1 BS/MANSC degrees

3. University of Illinois at Springfield, January 22, 2021

- Res. 50-14 Establish a Minor in Business Analytics in the Department of Management Information Systems
- Res. 50-15 Establish a Secondary Education Bachelor of Arts in English, Secondary Education Bachelor of Arts in History, and Secondary Education Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics
- Res. 50-16 Establish a Master of Science in Human Resource Management in the Department of Management, Marketing & Operations
- Res. 50-17 Replace the Blended Concentration in Gerontology in the Master of Human Services Degree with an Online Concentration
- Res. 50-18 Replace the On-Ground Certificate in Healthcare Management in the College of Business and Management with an Online Certificate

B. The following items were classified N by the University Senates Conference:

4. University of Illinois at Springfield, December 4, 2020

- sNc,u Res 50-13 Amend Senate Bylaws to Change Voting Membership of the Academic Technology Committee

5. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, December 7, 2020

- uNc,s CO.21.01 Resolution in Support of the Illinois Climate Action Plan
- EP.21.032 Report of Administrative Approvals Through November 16, 2020
- EC.20.07 Voting Unit Structure for the Student Electorate
- EC.21.03 Apportionment of the Student Electorate
- SP.21.02 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part C - Elections

Professor Kar moved to rearrange the agenda in order to discuss next the action items in old business. The motion was approved.

#### Explanation of File Numbers

ST - University of Illinois *Statutes*

GR - *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*

NC - Nominating Committee

OT - All other items

#### V. Old Business - Action Items

1. OT-372. Proposal to establish a consultation process for system policies.

Professor Kar shared a revised draft document from the *ad hoc* committee and noted that input from USC members had been reflected. He described what has typically happened when a system policy is being considered. Professor Kar reported that he had a meeting with EVP Wilson in which he described USC's rationale for creating the document. They both shared concerns from there not being an established process for consultation and discussed how guidelines should be determined. Professor Kar said that the document is ready for final USC input.

USC members discussed the current version of the document and provided advice. The group thought that "endorsement" could be added to "consultation, review, and advice," and that "formal review" should replace "final review." Some members were concerned with overreach by USC, since it is primarily a consultative body and represents the senates, but acknowledged that there could be instances when USC's endorsement would be appropriate. Members also wanted to make sure USC had the option to consult with the senates when it needed advice beyond its membership's expertise or when the policy was of significant concern to the faculty. There was a suggestion to note in the document the statutory language that describes the consultative role of USC.

Professor Kar said that he would incorporate into the document today's suggestions and any other suggestions USC members want to send to him and then the document could be sent to EVP Wilson for her review.

Professor Wade asked USC members to send any additional comments to Professor Kar before next week. The document will then go to EVP Wilson. Once she provides feedback, USC can have a discussion with her to work on finalizing the document.

2. OT-375. Discovery Partners Institute Bylaws.

Professor De Groote, Chair of the USC Statutes and Governance Committee, reported that Dr. Phyllis Baker of DPI had incorporated language suggested by USC into the DPI Bylaws and provided clarification in response to questions from USC. The bylaws now put more of an emphasis on the social equity goals of DPI and clarifies issues concerning faculty membership and quorum. In addition, USC will now be a part of the review process for revising the bylaws.



Professor Stroschio moved to approve the DPI Bylaws. The motion was seconded by Professor Steinberg. USC decided to recommend that the words *Statutes* and *The General Rules* be italicized in the document and that there be section identifiers. The motion to approve the DPI Bylaws and make the editorial suggestions was approved by roll call.

## VI. New Business

### 3. USC Observer to Board of Trustees meeting:

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Livestream

To be determined

### 4. OT-378. Higher Education, Post-Pandemic.

USC members discussed how the U of I System can guide the post-pandemic narrative of higher education.

Professor Fisher said that discussions need to be taking place now about harm that is being done to students and how existing inequalities have distributed harm unevenly. It will take time for recovery, in ways such as students having to delay graduation, obstacles in research opportunities, and mental health issues. Faculty have been set back as well.

Professor Steinberg said there needs to be complex discussions of issues concerning online education. While remote learning can provide access to students who cannot be here, there can also be serious problems. There needs to be a clear understanding of these problems. He added that human connections can be lost. Professor Erricolo commented that, while face-to-face is often preferable, we could be thinking about leveraging nationally and internationally since there does not have to be an attachment to a geographical location for student learning.

Professor Strahle suggested that the system needs to look at available resources for helping students in ways such as mental health issues and grad students who have had their trajectories stymied. Professor Campbell thought that the system could work on the current climate of divisiveness with a focus on reducing barriers and understanding each other's positions.

Professor De Groote said that UIC has created a task force that is focusing on education short-term and long-term. The group is taking what it has learned from the pandemic to figure out what has worked well and what has not, and to consider how resources can be made available in regular circumstances to provide better support in general.

Professor Span said that we need to look at putting the system on the right track and building bridges during this period of partisanship and wounds from the presidential election. There needs to be a systemic way to develop opportunities to engage with each other. We have the tools to build platforms and opportunities and to help our communities think differently as we move forward.

VII. Remarks from the USC Chair

There were no remarks from the Chair.

VIII. USC Committee of the Whole Discussion: Follow-up items from morning session

There was no follow-up discussion.

IX. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

## 5. OT-326. USC Presentations to the Board of Trustees.

USC discussed possible topics for the March 11 report to the Board. Professor Wade felt that the discussion on how we move forward post-pandemic was very productive and could be incorporated into a future report to the Board of Trustees. The report could expand further on where higher education is headed, not only in relation to post-pandemic. Other issues to consider could be how the role of faculty is changing, what are the biggest challenges we are facing, and how civil unrest and political divisiveness is affecting students and higher education. Other suggestions were creating a sustainable society, helping prepare this generation of students, and deciding what we can and cannot do as a system.

## 6. OT-374. System-wide Digital Accessibility Policy Guide Overview.

Professor Wade reported that the working group has drafted a document and implementation guidelines. Concerns include determining the acceptable level of risk and providing resources.

## 7. OT-371. Proposed revisions to the University of Illinois Residency Status Policy. Responses to EVP Wilson 8/11/20, 10/8/20, and 12/3/20.

## 8. OT-376. Consideration of a New System Officer Position. USC provided advice to Jami Painter 11/12/20.

9. OT-377. Removing the *Academic Sick Leave Policy* from the *General Rules* and making it a separate Human Resources policy. USC advice to Jami Painter 12/7/20.

[Items 7-9] Professor Wade said that these items could be removed from that agenda.

10. ST-83. Revisions to the *Statutes* – new proposed revisions and proposed revisions from ST-77 that need further discussion (B File). Sent to Executive Vice President Wilson 5/1/20.

Professor De Groote reported that the Statutes and Governance Committee is still working on the additional revisions to the *Statutes* with EVP Wilson and other system administrators.

11. ST-84. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4 – Changes in Existing Units. Passed UIUC Senate 11/12/18. Transmitted to Senates 12/18/18. Revised UIUC Senate document 4/22/19. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 5/7/19. Passed UIS Senate 8/30/19. Passed with amendments UIC Senate 1/30/20. UIC Senate amendments transmitted

to UIS and UIUC Senates 3/2/20. Passed UIS Senate 4/3/20. Passed with amendments UIUC Senate 4/27/20. Reconciled language approved by USC 5/29/20. Reconciled language to Senates 6/2/20. UIUC Senate USSP response 6/5/20. UIC SEC response 6/10/20 (The UIC Senate Executive Committee recommended that the struck sentence in lines 10-12 be retained).

There was no new information.

12. ST-85. Proposed Revisions to the *Statute*, Article X, Section 1 (Tenure of Academic Staff) (a) 6 and 7 – to permit the use of five-year appointments for non-tenure track faculty. Passed UIC Senate 4/22/20. Transmitted to UIS and UIUC Senates 5/1/20.

There was no new information.

13. ST-86. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article III, Sections 3 and 5, and Article VI – Dean, Director, or Campus Librarian. Passed UIUC Senate 4/27/20. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 5/1/20. Passed UIC Senates 10/21/20.

There was no new information.

14. OT-366. Policy on Integrity in Research and Publication. Sent to USC by the Executive Vice President 3/16/20. Transmitted to Senates 4/2/20. UIC Senate advice 12/3/20.

There was no new information.

15. OT-367. Clarification of the *General Rules* sections on intellectual property in relation to course materials. Approved by USC 5/29/20. Transmitted to Senates 6/2/20. UIC SEC response 6/10/20 (supports the USC document, will set up a task force).

There was no new information.

16. OT-369. Addressing Systemic Racism and Racial Justice (formerly Proposed action plan for Black Lives Matter). Letter to President Killeen 6/25/20.

There was no new information.

17. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

The Conference discussed guests to invite to future meetings.

18. Report of USC Observer to Board of Trustees meeting:

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Livestream

James Brennan

19. University Updates.

Professor Fisher discussed conversations taking place concerning the UIS reorganization process. The group commented on spring break being divided into separate days.

20. OT-142. External Groups with USC Representatives: Enrollment Management Policy Council (Wade); President's Executive Leadership Program (De Groot); Vice President for Academic Affairs Faculty Advisory Committee for System Academic Affairs; Student Mental Health Services Summit Working Group (Hunt); Sexual Misconduct Implementation Group (Kar, Strahle, Strosio); U of I System Going Forward: Excellence Amid COVID-19 Steering Committee (John Dallesasse); DPI Bylaws Task Force (De Groot).

EMPC: Professor Wade reported that UIC and UIS freshman numbers are down.

Excellence Amid COVID-19: Professor Dallesasse said that the steering committee has been receiving updates from the provost. Some of the current discussions concern auxiliary units such as residence halls.

21. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

Academic Affairs and Research Committee  
Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee  
Statutes and Governance Committee

Aria Razfar  
Roy Campbell  
Sandy De Groot

AARC: Professor Razfar reported that committee members have been talking with their provosts regarding pedagogy and systemic racism.

FBBC: Professor Campbell commented on the committee's meeting with Vice President Ghosh, which focused on pensions, investments, and the general budget.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.