MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Monday, February 22, 2016
PLACE: Room 206 Student Center West, Chicago
PRESENT: Boltuc, Deberry-Spence, De Groote, Erricolo, Francis, Jackson, Johnson, Kalita, LaDu, Maher, Miller, Mohammadian, Novak, Rao, Villegas (Vice Chair), Vincent, Weech*
ABSENT: Burbules (Chair), Graber, Wheeler
GUESTS: Timothy Killeen, Christophe Pierre, Lawrence Schook

* Participated by phone

Professor Jorge Villegas, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

I. Meeting with President Killeen and Vice President Pierre

President Killeen discussed the budget. He noted that higher education was not mentioned in the governor’s budget address. The University continues to impress upon legislative leaders to resolve the budget impasse. The 2021 Initiative, which calls for a “compact” with the state, would provide predictable funding and procurement relief to the University in exchange for areas of performance management by the University. President Killeen commented that state support in general revenue funds last year was $650M. No funds have been received from the state so far this fiscal year. Regardless, the University is committed to supporting MAP students. Vice President Pierre said that any cuts from the state will be somewhat buffered by $50M for performance funding through IBHE.

President Killeen said that there has been an increase in freshman applications and we are waiting to see the yield. The University is holding the line on tuition and costs. Vice President Pierre is working with the campuses on strategic enrollment management. The University needs to have discussions about what it means to be a land-grant institution, ways to maintain quality, what it means to be a professor, and what it means to be a public institution where you want excellence but also want scale. The group discussed how to provide support to the student body that is created.

President Killeen responded to concerns regarding faculty being picked off and departments not having the tools to keep people. He also noted that the exit rate has doubled but the overall numbers have not changed much due to new hires.

1Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of March 29, 2016
President Killeen commented that state procurement relief would be of great help. Vice President Pierre said that the University is looking for efficiencies within its own system through an internal regulatory relief review. The group discussed efficient use of resources, unfunded mandates, and initiatives that do not provide a benefit to the overall mission of the University, such as certain centers.

President Killeen thanked USC for its help on the strategic planning process. The strategic plan is on track for May approval by the Board. There will be another round of town hall meetings. He emphasized some of the components of the strategic plan: the land-grant mission, extension, civic engagement, public policy, and student safety and well-being.

Vice President Pierre said that he would be resurrecting the university-wide budget working group. He asked for representation from USC.

The group discussed faculty-student ratios and the need for faculty relief. There often are not enough people to get the job done. Also discussed was how extremely difficult it is to hire someone. There are layers of approval needed and the process takes an incredibly long amount of time, even when outside money is being used. The President said that he would look into these problems.

II. Meeting with Vice President Schook

Vice President Schook said that cross-campus research collaborations work best when they are faculty-driven. The institution needs to get better at creating competitive advantages and removing obstacles. Attaining resources has become more competitive. Multi-investigator and cross-discipline initiatives are becoming very common. There are often projects with people from multiple institutions who work together to seek funding. He commented that cross-campus collaborations have been a topic discussed with the VPR FAC. A helpful activity would be to look at success stories and figure out what made them work. Another activity would be to help get the right people in the same room. USC members discussed situations where large opportunities are being missed out on. One problem is competition from within, such as centers that operate with very little faculty and student participation but apply for the same grants. Another problem is the need for assistance and oversight with multi-million dollar grants. Vice President Schook remarked that there are various business model problems. He suggested that there be more coordination between the campuses in order to pursue new funding. Big money will be given to large collaborative projects; precision medicine being an example.

Professor Vincent commented that the UIC Research Committee reviewed the proposed classified research policy. There was confusion due to assumptions that turned out to be incorrect. The UIC Senate has not approved the policy since there are questions about the policy. Vice President Schook apologized for the confusion. The policy was intended to be very simple; stating that each campus has the right to determine its own rules and regulations. He agreed to meet with the senate committee.

Vice President Schook said that, in addition to national digital manufacturing, UI Labs has another theme called City Digital that is global and includes five or six companies. Some
members felt that UI Labs has not become an integral element of the campuses in terms of faculty and student participation. Vice President Schook replied that UI Labs was set up to lead economic development and partner with industries, building a place for recruiting faculty and students. There has not been as much of a connection with faculty and students as had been envisioned. The initiative will hopefully bring more big companies to Chicago so the city can compete in digital manufacturing. He encouraged the faculty to make expectations and help elevate our game in order to be able to compete.

Vice President Schook was asked how his office can help with scaling up research projects in order to compete for large grants. He responded that Illinois Ventures can help. Also, there needs to be a stronger relationship with the private sector. He suggested making clear expectations in terms of assistance from administration.

Vice President Schook said that he shared with the governor a table of the economic impact of the faculty through their national and international funding. The University can be a part of the state’s budgetary solution. We need to get more legislators to see and understand what the University is doing for the state.

The group discussed the need to determine best practices for managing alumni relations with donors who might be ready to advance to the next level of giving.

III. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of January 25, 2016

The minutes were approved as written.

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 *University of Illinois Statutes*. 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. |
A. The following items were classified I by the University Senates Conference:

1. **University of Illinois at Chicago, January 28, 2016**

   PR-16.13 Establish the Joint Master of Science in Business Analytics/Master of Sciences in Management Information Systems

   PR-16.14 Establish the Joint Master of Science in Business Analytics/Master of Business Administration

   PR-16.15 Establish the Joint Master of Science in Business Analytics/Master of Science in Finance

   PR-16.16 Establish the Joint Master of Science in Finance/Master of Science in Management Information Systems

   PR-16.17 Establish the Joint Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies/Master of Urban Planning and Policy

   PR-16.18 Establish the Joint Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy/Master of Public Administration

   PR-16.19 Revision of the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration; Revise and Rename the Concentration in Public Management; Revise the Concentration in Finance Management and Survey Methods; Eliminate the Concentration in Science, Technology, and Information Policy; and Establish the Concentration in Urban Governance and Networks

   PR-16.20 Revision of the Master in Public Administration, Revision of the Concentrations in Financial Management, Nonprofit Management, and Public Management; Revise and Rename the Concentration in Local Government Administration; Establish the Concentrations in Public Policy and a Self-Directed Option; and Eliminate the Concentrations in Information and Performance Management and Survey Methods

   PR-16.21 Reactivate and Revise the Minor in Chemistry

   PR-16.22 Revision of the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Chemistry and Revision of the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

   PR-16.23 Revision of the Bachelor of Arts in Art History

   PR-16.24 Revision of the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Physics; Revision of the Bachelor of Science in Physics; and Revision of the Minor in Physics
2. **University of Illinois at Springfield, February 5, 2016**

Res. 45-10 Establish a Minor in Music

Res. 45-11 Eliminate the Minor in Elementary Education

3. **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 8, 2016**

EP.16.38 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance (BFA in Dance)

EP.16.40 Proposal to Revise the Undergraduate Minor in Art and Design, College of Fine and Applied Arts

EP.16.43 Proposal to Revise the Teacher Education Minor in Secondary School Teaching in the College of Education

EP.16.45 Proposal to Establish a Graduate Concentration in Computational Science and Engineering

EP.16.47 Proposal to Revise the Requirements for the Master of Music Education Degree

EP.16.49 Proposal to Revise the Computer Science B.S. Degree in the College of Engineering

EP.16.50 EPC Administrative Approvals through January 25, 2016

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

4. **University of Illinois at Chicago, January 28, 2016**

   cNs,u The UIC Senate approved the Policy and Procedure for Degree Revocation

5. **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 8, 2016**

   uNc,s SP.16.07 Recommendations in Response to Proposed Revisions to the Non-Discrimination Statement
V. Old Business – Action Items

1. OT-327. University Strategic Plan.

Professor Villegas commented on the revised draft document, noting the highlighted changes. Professor Weech questioned the use of the term “regional campus,” which Professor De Groote confirmed was the actual term for Peoria and Rockford. Professor Villegas commented that the final strategic plan may include term changes when describing the University and campuses. He said that the USC recommendations document was sent to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee in early January as a draft. The document being considered today has additional proposed revisions that could go back to the steering committee.

Professor Maher felt that USC had a responsibility to send the document to the senates for information since the Conference is representative of those bodies. Professor Villegas suggested that these revisions be sent to the steering committee soon so that the Conference can move onto consideration of the strategic plan that is now publicly available. Professor Rao recommended that the revised USC document be sent to the steering committee and to the senates for information.

Professor LaDu commented that the USC recommendations do not seem to be reflected in the framework for the strategic plan document and suggested incorporating the USC document into the framework language. Professor Deberry-Spence suggested sending the revised USC document to the President with the request that the steering committee consider the USC recommendations. Professor Villegas proposed that the transmittal document to the President include an explanation of the concerns of USC. He asked members to send comments with their particular concerns.

VI. New Business

2. OT-331. U of I 2021 Initiative.

Professor Villegas commented that it will be important for the faculty to be involved in the process of the compact document as soon as metrics are being decided. Conference members expressed concern with the actual impact the document will have. Professor Maher said that, while there is skepticism, the document confirms that the state has a responsibility to public higher education.
VII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items


No new information.


No new information.


No new information.


Professor Maher reported that the UIUC Senate approved a recommendation that the Nondiscrimination Statement should be treated as an amendment to the Statutes. The actual revisions to the language will be considered at the next senate meeting.

7. OT-326. USC Presentations to the Board of Trustees.

The Conference discussed possible topics for future presentations to the Board. The group recommended that the topic be on research funding rather than sabbaticals.

Professor Villegas commented that the *ad hoc* committee, which included Sandy De Groote, Terry Weech, and himself, felt that any concerns seem to be related to campus implementation; not over the policy document. The committee recommends that the next step be to move the policy forward so that the campuses can begin the implementation process. The Conference approved the document from the committee.


Professor Villegas commented that Vice President Schook indicated that he will address the concerns raised by the UIC Senate.

10. OT-223. Annual Review of the Vice Presidents.

Professor Novak provided an update on AARC’s plans for the review of Vice President Schook.

11. OT-320. Salary increments and campus budgeting priorities.

No new information.

12. OT-330. Approval and Consultation Processes with the University Senates Conference and the Senates.

No new information.


The Conference discussed possible future guests.

14. Designation of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

   Wednesday, March 16, 2016 Urbana Sally Jackson

15. Campus Updates.

Professor LaDu reported that the new UIC provost and VCHA have started. Professor Johnson reported that UIUC has a new Athletic Director. Professor Novak reported that UIS has named an interim provost.

16. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

   Academic Affairs and Research Committee Gay Miller
   Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee Sally Jackson
There were no reports.

17. OT-142. Updates on External Committees: Enrollment Management Policy Council; Vice President for Academic Affairs Faculty Advisory Committee (Burbules, Mohammadian, Villegas); Vice President for Academic Affairs UA Budget Review Advisory Committee (Mohammadian, Villegas, Wheeler); Vice President for Finance Faculty Advisory Committee (Deberry-Spence, Weech); Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee (Boltuc, Villegas, Wheeler).

Professor Deberry-Spence said that the new FAC for Vice President Knorr had its first meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.