

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Wednesday, February 24, 2021

PLACE: Videoconference

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

ABSENT: De Groot, Varden

GUESTS: Donald Edwards, Timothy Killeen, Gregory Knott, Barbara Wilson

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

I. Meeting with President Killeen, Executive Vice President Wilson, and Chairman Edwards

Professor Wade welcomed everyone and thanked Chairman Edwards for joining the meeting.

President Killeen said that the system is fortunate to have Chairman Edwards leading the Board of Trustees. He commented that these non-formulaic, collegial interactions between the Board Chair and USC are the sign of a healthy institution.

Chairman Edwards thanked USC members and the entire faculty for working incredibly hard during the pandemic. He described the system's response as second to none and gave credit to the faculty for providing a world-class education to the students at our universities. He spoke on behalf of the Board when saying how much they appreciated and admired the dedication from the faculty.

Chairman Edwards provided an overview of what he believes to be the priorities for the system. He discussed the alignment of the system, from the Board to the administration of the system, to the administration of each university, and then to the individual units. The system agrees to the mission and how to execute that mission. The University of Illinois provides a world-class education at an affordable price for the people of Illinois. He commented that it is relatively easy to be good on a small scale. The U of I provides excellence on a large scale; 90,000 students. Enrollment and faculty hiring are high priorities. Getting the student-to-faculty ration down is very important. Discovery Partners Institute has been a massive success of the administration, with the state providing some of the funding. The Board advocates for the system at the legislative level and through personal connections.

Chairman Edwards said that no other university system has put the resources and effort into creating a testing and tracing regime as the University of Illinois System did. The ability to roll out the saliva COVID-19 test was quite a breakthrough. The system has done more tests than ten states in the U.S. The interdisciplinary effort kept students safe and healthy. The system has spread its technology to other universities both regionally and nationally. Decisions had to be made quickly last spring. Students and faculty were sent home and

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of March 30, 2021

moved to online teaching completely while we could figure out the uncertainties. Everyone dropped what they were doing to figure out a way to get our students back safely. The credit goes to the administration and faculty. This has not gone unnoticed by the rest of the world.

Responding to a question from USC, Chairman Edwards said that the trustees should not be involved in decisions at the department level. These are best left to management closer to the level of where decision-making takes place.

Chairman Edwards commented that he appreciates the presentations USC gives at the Board meetings. He suggested that USC collaborate with President Killeen and Executive Vice President (EVP) Wilson on the message. The Board wants to hear what is important to the faculty. He said that this is an opportunity for the faculty to tell us what you need. The Board is dedicated to shared governance, with academic freedom being an important part. He said that the Board wants to know how they can support the faculty. He gave the example of generating world-class research. The Board would be interested in better understanding research, such as where the dollars come from and what the universities need to do to generate those dollars. Especially given that state funding is not likely to increase.

Chairman Edwards highlighted the importance interdisciplinary efforts at the U of I. He commented that leadership here has a part in that. Because of scale and excellence, the system has the ability to bring together science, technology, and the arts and humanities. Chairman Edwards said that the system does a great job with President Killeen and EVP Wilson advocating for the universities and providing a structural framework. The system also does a great job navigating Springfield and D.C. The Board is very mindful that each university can serve its mission and community in their own niche in higher education. USC members praised President Killeen for his leadership during this difficult time.

Chairman Edwards thanked USC members for making our universities stand out during his trying time. He commented that he went to the U of I on a scholarship and it transformed his life. At the end of the day, faculty are the lifeblood that gives students opportunities.

President Killeen discussed the interdisciplinary efforts to the COVID-19 response that resulted in no layoffs or furloughs, continued world-class teaching, and safety protocols for students, faculty, and staff. He also discussed how the system's leadership and interdisciplinary strengths are equipped to take on challenges of systemic racism in society, equality and equity, climate change, and educational changes. There is a whole group of sociotechnical challenges. The President said there is also the need to engage the economics of social sciences. We have the ear of Illinois government. The system's leadership can go beyond Illinois. He said that the outdated term "rust belt" includes our region, which is very vibrant. There are wonderful institutions with which we can partner to address societal issues.

President Killeen discussed two initiatives: The Binational Great Lakes Higher-Education Consortium, which would partner with the University of Toronto and other regional institutions to help build the economy and create jobs; and The University of Illinois System Mexican & Mexican-American Students initiative, which would work to increase enrollment of Mexican students at the U of I and increase academic and research partnerships with universities, government agencies and private industry in Mexico.

President Killeen provided an update on Discovery Partners Institute programs and future initiatives. These include middle school, community college and lifelong learning programs, credential opportunities for teachers, and programs to create a pool of diverse talent for community needs.

The groups discussed the flawed idea of using the dollar as a proxy for success. President Killeen commented that we need to assess value beyond the dollar. EVP Wilson questioned what we are telling people when we talk about the starting salaries of our graduates and not other accomplishments that are more societal. We should also look at metrics that value the numbers of educators and social workers we produce. Importance should be given to improving human conditions not just for the elite, but for society as a whole and people who are struggling. The group considered whether students are being given the knowledge and ability to make sound choices regarding human value and how to use their wealth.

The group also discussed the roughly 700,000 people a year who come out of prison and cannot receive federal benefits, cannot vote, and have difficulties getting jobs. There is a negative impact on the communities to which they return. There needs to be assistance with re-integration so that these people can become role models for their communities. President Killeen agreed that this was a big social challenge. He mentioned the system's MOU with the Department of Corrections and the teaching program at the Danville Corrections Center where inmates can get college credentials. The President said that this was another challenge within our reach to take on. There was a discussion of programs that invest in underrepresented communities.

President Killeen said that the next round of federal stimulus relief could provide about \$100M to the system. The funds would be used for primarily for emergency student support and defraying costs incurred from the pandemic.

President Killeen commented that what happens this fall is largely dependent on the vaccination programs and how the variants of the virus impact our community. There will most likely be more face-to-face instruction. EVP Wilson said that the system is advocating for higher education to be in the next tier of those eligible to receive the vaccine. The President said that testing and protective protocols will still need to be in place for some time.

President Killeen noted that the Governor proposed flat funding for higher education in the next fiscal year. The system argued for an 8.2% increase, but flat funding is better than a cut.

EVP Wilson said that the system aggressively communicated to all three universities a tenure rollback program that is generous. More faculty have opted to take a tenure rollback than in most previous years. The rollbacks are automatic in that they do not have to be approved.

President Killeen touted the low positivity rates of students and faculty on the campuses and gave credit to cooperation with the SHIELD program. EVP Wilson asked the faculty to please give credit to the students for all they have done.

Professor Wade thanked President Killeen and EVP Wilson for the open conversations. She commented that the long list of the system's partnerships with other institutions was very impressive.

(The meeting recessed at 11:55 a.m. and resumed 1:00 p.m.)

II. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of January 26, 2021

Professor Fisher moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Maher. Professor Maher provided some edits: Pg. 3, Par. 2, change “equity to our students” to “equity for our students”; and Pg. 3, last Par., change “we have amazing aspects” to “we have amazing prospects.” The minutes as edited were approved unanimously.

III. 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. |

Professor Strahle moved to approve the classification of senate minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Span and approved unanimously.

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

1. University of Illinois at Chicago, January 28, 2021

PR-21.34 Proposal to Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology

PR-21.35 Proposal to Establish the Concentration in Consumer and Mobile Health Informatics and Concentration in Leadership in Health Informatics in the Master of Science in Health Informatics

PR-21.36 Proposal to Revise the Concentration in International Human Rights Law in the Juris Doctor

PR-21.37 Proposal to Establish the Concentration in Critical Race and Gender Studies in the Juris Doctor

- PR-21.38 Proposal to Establish the Concentration in Health Equity, Law & Policy in the Juris Doctor
- PR-21.39 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences
- PR-21.40 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy
- PR-21.41 Proposal to Establish the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Design General Education Requests
- EP-21.01 Proposal to Revise the Graduate College Limits on Transfer Credit Policy

2. University of Illinois at Springfield, February 5, 2021

- Res 50-19 Establish a Graduate Concentration in Nursing Home Administration in the Department of Human Services
- Res 50-20 Establish a Master of Science in Health Care Informatics in the Department of Management Information Systems
- Res 50-21 Establish a Master of Public Policy Degree in the Department of Public Administration

3. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 8, 2021

- EP.21.028 Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Minor, UG -- Proposal to Establish a New Undergraduate Minor in Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences
- EP.21.034 Business for Non-Business Majors Minor -- Revisions of the Business Minor's lists of Required Courses, The Minor's Required Two GPAS, And The Notation Of The Minimum Six Hours Of Coursework For The Minor Must Be Distinct From Credit Earned For The Student's Major Or Another Minor
- EP.21.038 Suspension of Admission to MS Business Administration Program, Gies College of Business
- EP.21.040 Biomedical Image Computing, MS -- New program - the Master of Science in Biomedical Image Computing in the Department of Bioengineering
- EP.21.041 Engineering: Autonomy and Robotics, Meng -- Establish a Graduate Concentration in Autonomy and Robotics within the Master of Engineering in Engineering Degree

- EP.21.042 Physics, BS (LAS) -- Phase down all three LAS Physics programs (BSLAS, BS Specialized Curriculum, and BSLAS Physics, Teaching Concentration) effective Fall 2022, with the intent to consolidate all Physics instruction in The Grainger College of Engineering
- EP. 21.043 Physics, BSLAS -- Phase down all three LAS Physics programs (BSLAS, BS Specialized Curriculum, and BSLAS Physics, Teaching Concentration) effective Fall 2022, with the intent to consolidate all Physics instruction in The Grainger College of Engineering
- EP.21.044 Physics: Physics Teaching, BSLAS -- Phase down all three LAS Physics programs (BSLAS, BS Specialized Curriculum, and BSLAS Physics, Teaching Concentration) effective Fall 2022, with the intent to consolidate all Physics instruction in The Grainger College of Engineering
- EP.21.045 Physics, BS -- Revision of program name from Engineering Physics, BS to Physics, BS. This is part of the consolidation of the UIUC Physics programs in LAS and ENGR to one program in the Grainger College of Engineering
- EP.21.050 Industrial Engineering, MS (on campus & online) -- MS revision with multiple minor revisions. The other programs that are tied to this revision include: IE, PHD -- key 336; SE, MS -- key 338; SE, PHD -- key 335
- EP.21.051 Industrial Engineering, PhD -- PhD revision with multiple minor revisions. The other programs that are tied to this revision include: IE, MS -- key 337; SE, MS -- key 338; SE, PHD -- key 335
- EP.21.052 Systems and Entrepreneurial Engineering, MS -- MS revision with multiple minor revisions. The other programs that are tied to this revision include: IE, MS -- key 337; IE, PHD -- key 336; SE, PHD -- key 335
- EP.21.053 Systems & Entrepreneurial Engineering, PhD -- PhD revision with multiple minor revisions. The other programs that are tied to this revision include: IE, MS -- key 337; IE, PHD -- key 336; SE, MS -- key 338
- EP.21.054 Business Administration, MBA - Online (iMBA) -- Change from two required focus area specializations to one focus area specialization plus elective courses to provide more flexibility to students
- EP.21.055 Teaching of Spanish, BA -- Revise the Bachelor of Arts in the Teaching of Spanish (BAT)

4. University of Illinois at Springfield, February 19, 2021

- Res. 50-22 Transfer the Master of Science in Data Analytics from the Department of Mathematical Sciences to the Computer Science Department
- Res. 50-23 Establish a Concentration in Applied Business Analytics in the Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems
- Res. 50-24 Rename the Bachelor of Arts Degree in the Public Administration and Add Voluntary Concentrations

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

5. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 8, 2021

- uNc,s SC.21.08 Resolution Confirming the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Shall Provide Advice to the President on the 2020-2021 Review of the Chancellor
- SP.20.31 Revision to the Bylaws, Part D.10 – Committee on Equal Opportunity and Inclusion
- EP.21.039 Report of Administrative Approvals thorough January 25, 2021
- EP.21.061 Report of Administrative Approvals thorough February 1, 2021

IV. Remarks from the USC Chair

There were no remarks from the Chair.

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

Professor Wade provided a summary of the morning session for those who could not attend. USC members felt that there were huge opportunities going forward after this period of being in crisis mode. There needs to be a vision that moves the system forward and also promotes post-pandemic resiliency in all levels of learning and in the economy.

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

VI. Old Business - Action Items

There was no old business for action.

VII. New Business

1. OT-379. Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee – Designation of two members by the University Senates Conference.

USC chose Professor Jenkins as one of the DPI Executive Committee members designated by USC. USC decided that it would also like to designate Professor Stroschio, but he was already scheduled to be on the ballot for the DPI election of Executive Committee members. The group decided that it would designate either Professor Stroschio or another interested USC member depending on the results of the election.

2. OT-380. Proposed Revisions to Funeral/Bereavement Leave and Parental Leave.

USC members were pleased to see the additional leave. Some were surprised at how little paid parental leave was currently provided and, while some commented that there was still a way to go in providing adequate parental leave benefits, thought the improvements were a good step in the right direction. There were no suggested revisions.

There was a discussion of the inconsistencies in time off from teaching for parental leave. UIC and UIUC offer a semester off from teaching, while UIS does not have such a policy. The group also wondered how teaching relief interacts with the policy being revised. USC decided to ask Ms. Jami Painter, Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, who forwarded the proposed changes.

VIII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

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

Professor Span discussed the report that was to be given to the Board on March 11. USC members provided suggestions. Professor Span said that the report was an opportunity to highlight everything that the system has done to fight COVID-19 and how we have been adaptive in teaching. He commented that the report also demonstrates that we can be empowered to solve problems collectively in areas of social justice and public education.

4. OT-372. Proposal to establish a consultation process for system policies. Sent to Executive Vice President Wilson 2/3/21.

Professor Wade reported that EVP Wilson is setting up a committee to look at approval processes for systemwide policies.

5. OT-375. Discovery Partners Institute Bylaws. Approved by USC 1/26/21. Approved by the President 2/4/21.

Noting that the bylaws had been finalized, Professor Wade recommended removing this item from the agenda.

6. OT-378. Higher Education, Post-Pandemic.

Professor Wade commented that the March 11 USC report to the Board captures the spirit of this item.

7. 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 will be meeting with EVP Wilson and other system administrators to discuss the additional revisions to the *Statutes*.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

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

Professor Wade indicated that this item could be removed from the agenda.

14. OT-374. System-wide Digital Accessibility Policy Guide Overview.

Professor Wade indicated that this item could be removed from the agenda.

15. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

The Conference discussed guests to invite to future meetings.

16. USC Observer to Board of Trustees meeting:

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Livestream

Mitra Dutta

17. University Updates.

USC members discussed ways in which online teaching is changing and expanding, how to balance online and hybrid teaching, how this all fits in academically, and how governance fits in.

18. 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).

Excellence Amid COVID-19: Professor Dallesasse said that the provosts have expressed their desire to have a larger percentage of in-person classes in the fall, but the factors that will drive decisions are currently unknown.

19. 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

There were no reports.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.