MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Tuesday, March 18, 2014
PLACE: Room 210 Illini Union, Urbana
PRESENT: Campbell, Chambers (Vice Chair), Deberry-Spence, De Groote, Erricolo, Fisher, Francis, Graber, Leff, Maher, Mallory, Mohammadian, Tolliver, Villegas (Chair)
ABSENT: Boltuc, Fadavi, Kalita, Kay, Miller, Wheeler
GUESTS: Robert Easter, Christopher Kennedy, Susan Kies, Phyllis Wise

Professor Jorge Villegas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

I. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Villegas reviewed the day’s schedule. He noted that President Easter would join the meeting at 10:30am, Chairman Kennedy would arrive around 11:30am, and Chancellor Wise was scheduled for 2pm.

II. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of February 27, 2014

The minutes were approved as written.

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 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- |

1Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of April 22, 2014
A. The following items were classified by the University Senates Conference:

1. **University of Illinois at Springfield, March 7, 2014**

   R43-20 Creation of Three New Concentrations in Human Development Counseling: Clinical and Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling, and Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling

   R43-22 Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Concurrent Major in Content Area

2. **University of Illinois at Chicago, March 12, 2014**

   PR-14.29 Establishment of the Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Sciences

   PR-14.30 Establishment of the Master of Science in Business Analytics

   PR-14.31 Establishment of a Concentration in Public Health Informatics within the Online Master of Science in Public Health (Health Policy and Administration)

   PR-14.32 Revision of the Master of Science in Forensic Science

   PR-14.33 Revision of the Master of Science in Bioengineering and Master of Science in Bioinformatics

   PR-14.34 Revision of the Survey Methods Concentration, Master of Public Administration (MPA)

   PR-14.35 Revision of the Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering

   PR-14.36 Revision of the Bachelor of Arts in Art History and Revision of the Minor in Art History

   PR-14.37 Establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences

   PR-14.38 Revision of the Master of Architecture

   PR-14.39 Revision of the Master of Arts in Museum and Exhibition Studies

   PR-14.40 Establish the Clinician Executive Master of Healthcare Administration (CEHMA)
PR-14.41  Revision of the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Economics; Revision of the Minor in Economics; and Revision of the Minor in Human Capital and Labor Markets

PR-14.42  Revision of the Bachelor of Arts in Art History in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in History; Revision of the Bachelor of Arts in the Teaching of History

PR-14.43  Revision of the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering

PR-14.44  Revision of the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

PR-14.45  Redesignation and Revision of the Bachelor of Science in Statistics and Operations Research as the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Statistics; Establish the Concentration in Statistical Theory and Methods; Establish the Concentration in Applied Statistics

CP-14.07  Revision of the Campus Certificate in Survey Research Methods

CP-14.08  Revision of the Campus Certificate in Assistive Technology

CP-14.09  Revision of the IBHE-Approved Certificate in Health Informatics

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

R43-18  Proposed Revisions to the Statutes, Article II, Section 2.b and Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the Statutes

4. University of Illinois at Chicago, March 12, 2014
   First Reading: Proposed Revisions from the UIUC Senate to the Statutes, Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the Statutes

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

5. University of Illinois at Springfield, February 21, 2014
sNc,u  R43-15  Amendments to the UIS Campus Senate Bylaws Regarding Attendance by Means Other than Physical Presence
6. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 10, 2014

uNc,s  SC.14.07  Revised Draft of Provost’s Communication for Specialized Faculty

SC.14.08  Resolution to Endorse the Guiding Principles of the “Draft Employment Guidelines for Specialized Faculty Holding Non-Tenure Positions”

7. University of Illinois at Chicago, March 12, 2014

cNs,u  Ratified members of the Committee to advise the President on the selection of a Chancellor at UIC

The Conference discussed UIUC Senate SC.14.07. The Provost’s document strives to describe the jobs and promotion path of those who are neither tenure-track faculty nor civil service. The senate passed a resolution with guiding principles.

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

IV. Old Business – Action Items

1. OT-307. Leadership Development Program (UI Succession Planning).

The Conference discussed the 4-day program and decided to wait to nominate someone until after the discussion with the President. There was general agreement that leadership training should be occurring at all levels. The group also discussed the difference between leadership preparation and administrative training.

V. New Business

2. Designation of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

   Wednesday, May 14, 2014, Springfield: Lynn Fisher


Professor Villegas reported that he had appointed the committee: Kouros Mohammadian (Chair), Lynn Fisher, and Kim Graber. He commented that the committee cannot do much until the senates elect USC members.

Professor Villegas commented that the Board approved the composition of the search committee at its March 6 meeting. The senates have been asked to suggest candidates for the committee. There was discussion of whether the senate nominees should be transmitted through the Senates Conference, as outlined in the Board document. Some conference members felt that the nomination procedure should be defined in writing, possibly even in the *Statutes*.

5. OT-310. Recommendation for New Policy Language Related to Classified Research at the University of Illinois.

Professor Villegas said that the working document from Vice President Schook would be discussed with him at the April 22 USC meeting. The Conference decided to transmit the document to the USC Academic Affairs and Research Committee for review.

VI. Meeting with President Easter

President Easter commented that the Board would like to see better succession planning at the University. He will be gathering a cohort of people who might be ready to step into certain roles. The initiative will give the group experiences that would provide them with a good background, particularly with legislators. He is planning a four-day program that includes one day on each campus and one day in Washington, D.C. The President said that he would like one member of USC to participate in the program.

President Easter said that ST-72 should be ready to move forward. Peg O’Donoghue mentioned one editorial revision where a subsection is referenced that has been removed. She thanked the group that worked on the language. Professor Fisher gave credit to Professor Tolliver, both of whom were a part of the working group. Professor Tolliver acknowledged the work of Professor Eric Johnson from the Urbana Senate, whom she consulted on various occasions.

President Easter reported that the July Board of Trustees retreat will be fairly small and include conversations among the trustees, representatives from USC, the chancellors, and the provosts. Core issues will be discussed in the context of the presidential search. The senates have been solicited for faculty nominations for membership on the search committee.

President Easter remarked that the administrative review came to closure a little over a week ago. Mr. Bill Adams said that 45 of the 47 recommendations were approved. Each recommendation has been assigned to its responsible leader. The President added that Vice President Pierre has been made the task master of implementing the recommendations. The recommendations make sure that University Administration is serving its customers. In addition, there will be a formalized budgeting process for UA.

President Easter said that the University was asked by the state to prepare scenarios for a 12% and a 20% budget reduction. He commented that he would be testifying before the
House and Senate Appropriation Committees before the Governor gives the budget address. The request for information on the budget reductions has to do with the potential impact of the income tax hike expiring as it is set to do. Some groups have proposed stepping down the tax gradually and then implementing other taxes.

In response to a question about “one University,” President Easter responded that we are a University with very distinct campuses that need a lot of autonomy. He added that we do not have the resources to be totally autonomous. There needs to be strategic coordination and a way to look at areas where there may be redundancies.

VII. Meeting with Chairman Kennedy

Chairman Kennedy joined the meeting at 12:45 p.m. He stressed the importance of bringing clarity to the role of the president. The University should determine its mission and then develop a strategy for moving forward. Part of the strategy includes developing the correct structure. Mr. Kennedy said that he believes decisions should be made at the lowest level possible. As the University looks for a new president, we need to think about the relationship between the president and the chancellors and centralization and decentralization. He considers being adaptable one of the strongest qualities needed in a president. Mr. Kennedy commented that a search firm would be used as part of the presidential search, but the search committee will have an active role. Dr. Kies confirmed that the senate nominees to the search committee would go through the Senates Conference to the Board.

Mr. Kennedy commented that the University needs to have a bigger influence in government by overcoming its hesitation to be politically involved. He acknowledged that there are restrictions that must be considered.

Mr. Kennedy announced the role of the Board of Trustees: to hire the President; to develop the University strategic plan; to approve campus strategic plans; to maintain resources of the University and to distribute appropriately per the University’s strategic plan; to develop compensation plans for employees; and to assure compliance in order to achieve goals.

VIII. Meeting with Chancellor Wise

Chancellor Wise joined the meeting at 2:10 p.m. She commented that the economic situation with the state is currently the biggest challenge. Illinois is one of the last states in the nation to recover. The President has asked the campus to prepare a budget with cuts as much as 20% in the event that the income tax increase is discontinued. The scenarios are being written to protect excellence and to maintain scholarships for the neediest students. She cautioned, however, that deep cuts to the budget would result in less financial aid for students, less teaching assistants, and less course offerings.

Chancellor Wise said that the University is working very hard on a supplemental pension program. She commented that, in order to retain faculty, the University has to be competitive.
On the positive side is economic development on the campus. The Chancellor stressed the importance of technology driven healthcare and ensuring that the research park is an attractive place for companies that want to recruit our students and work with our faculty. There is a push for globalization and online learning. The campus has set up an office in Shanghai and one will open up in Delhi within a year. The campus has eleven Coursera courses. She said that online teaching should be faculty-driven.

Chancellor Wise commented that the President should be externally facing; working with corporations and with legislators to promote the value of higher education. The President should be a leader in higher education both in-state and nationally.

Responding to a question about collaborations among the campuses, Chancellor Wise said that collaborations should be complementary. There should always be awareness when there is overlap, but that does not mean there should be a restriction.

IX. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

(1.continued) OT-307. Leadership Development Program (UI Succession Planning).

The discussion was continued from the morning session. The Conference decided that it might be beneficial to have two faculty members participate in the leadership program. Professors Deberry-Spence and Villegas were elected to have their names put forward, with Professor Deberry-Spence being the nominee if only one person is permitted to participate.


Professor Tolliver noted the editorial revision pointed out by Peg O’Donoghue. In the third to the last line in section, “of Article X, Section 2c” should be removed. The Conference also decided to change “the” to “these” in the same sentence, and delete the word “paragraph” in the first sentence of c. Professor Chambers moved to approve the revisions and send the proposed statutory language to the senates.


Professor Mohammadian reported that the UIC Senate had first reading of the revised language.

Professor Tolliver reported that the members of the committee reviewing the documents are supposed to share their thoughts on the proposed revisions by April 1.


No new information.


Professor Villegas reported that the Open Access Task Force met the day before. The USC committee is working on a guiding document that would be sent to the senates. A draft document should be ready by the next USC meeting.

11. OT-308. UA Annual Review Process.

Professor Villegas said that the names of the USC nominees to serve on the evaluation committee had been sent to Vice President Pierre. The nominees are: Danilo Erricolo, Lynn Fisher, George Francis, Kouros Mohammadian, Jorge Villegas, and Matthew Wheeler.

12. OT-288. Faculty/Staff Pension and Benefit Issues (formerly Resolution on Pensions/ Pension Reform).

Professor Villegas said that the administration is working on a supplemental pension plan. He commented that there are many issues to be considered.


Professor Campbell reported that a draft document on the review of Vice President Knorr had been circulated to the Budget Committee.

14. OT-297. Implications of the Open Meetings Act to the operations of the University Senates Conference.

No new information.

15. OT-301. Records and Information Management Services (RIMS).

Professor Fisher reported that meetings are being held at each campus.


No new information.
17. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

Guests to invite were discussed.

18. Report of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting and USC Report Presenter:

Thursday, March 6, 2014, Urbana: Jorge Villegas
USC Report: Matthew Wheeler

Professor Villegas commented that Professor Wheeler gave an excellent report on regulatory burdens.

19. Campus Updates.

There were no updates.

20. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

Academic Affairs and Research Committee Matthew Wheeler
Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee Peter Boltuc
Hospital and Health Affairs Committee Donald Chambers
Statutes and Governance Committee Joyce Tolliver

There were no committee reports.

21. OT-142. Updates on External Committees: Common Application Consortium (Graber); Enrollment Management Policy Council (Leff); Pre- and Post-Award Research Money Policy group (Wheeler); Strategic Communications and Marketing Council (Villegas); UI Labs Task Force (Chambers); University Technology Management Team (Campbell); Vice President for Academic Affairs Faculty Advisory Committee (Chambers, Mohammadian, Villegas); Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee (Boltuc, Chambers, Villegas, Wheeler).

There were no external committee updates.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.