MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, March 30, 2017
PLACE: I Hotel and Conference Center, Champaign
PRESENT: Burbules, DeBerry-Spence, De Groote, Francis, Graber, Jackson, Johnson, Maher, Miller, Mohammadian* (Vice Chair), Novak (Chair), Rao, Vincent, Weech, Wheeler

ABSENT: Erricolo, Kalita, Karri, LaDu, Villegas

GUESTS: Laura Clower, Robert Jones, Timothy Killeen, Barbara Wilson, Julie Wurth

* Participated by phone.

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

I. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Novak reported that the University Senates Conference will be audited for compliance and governance practices by the Office of University Audits. The group had questions about the process of the audit and why USC had been chosen. Professor Novak said that there would be a meeting soon to go over the process and clarify the purpose.

II. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of February 23, 2017

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. |

1Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of April 27, 2017
A. The following items were classified I by the University Senates Conference:

1. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 6, 2017
   
   EP.17.46 Proposal to Revise the BALAS in Spanish from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
   
   EP.17.47 Proposal to Revise the Undergraduate Spanish Minor from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
   
   EP.17.53 Proposal to Revise the Curriculum Requirements for the Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, Dept. of Mechanical Science & Engineering
   
   EP.17.56 Report of Administrative Approvals through February 13, 2017
   
   EP.17.70 Report of Administrative Approvals through February 27, 2017

2. University of Illinois at Chicago, March 16, 2017
   
   PR-17.23 Establish the Healthy Living Practitioner (HLP) Course Subject/Rubric
   
   PR-17.24 Revision of the Master of Fine Arts in Moving Image, Revision of the Master of Fine Arts in New Media Arts, Revision of the Master of Fine Arts in Photography, and Revision of the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Arts
   
   PR-17.25 Establish the Joint Master of Science in Computer Science/Master of Fine Arts in New Media Arts
   
   PR-17.26 Revision of the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics
   
   PR-17.27 Revision of the Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering, and Revision of the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering
   
   PR-17.28 Establishment of the Graduate Education in Medical Sciences (GEMS) Course Subject/Rubric
PR-17.29 Revision of the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology

PR-17.30 Establish the Public Policy (PP) Course Subject/Rubric

PR-17.31 Revision of the Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy

PR-17.32 Reactivate and Revise the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education

PR-17.33 Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Design

PR-17.34 Revision of the Minor in Computer Engineering and Revision of the Minor in Electrical Engineering

CP-17.01 Establish the Post-Baccalaureate Healthy Living Practitioner (HLP) Campus Certificate

CI-17.01 Transfer of the Center for Research on Women and Gender from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research to the College of Medicine

3. University of Illinois at Springfield, March 24, 2017

Res. 46-14 Establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Health Care Management

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


sNc,u Res. 46-11 Statement in Support of Investment, Performance and Accountability Act Proposal (IPAC)

Res. 46-12 Amendments to the Campus Senate Bylaws Eliminating the Research Board as a Standing Senate Committee

5. University of Illinois at Springfield, March 24, 2017

sNc,u Res. 46-13 Amendments to the Campus Senate Bylaws Changing Language to Match Current Practices

The Conference discussed the research boards at each campus and clarified the classification of senate minutes procedures.
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

None.

V. New Business

1. Designation of USC Observer to Board of Trustees meeting:

   Thursday, May 11, 2017  Springfield  To be determined

2. NC-23. Nominating Committee for 2017-18 Officers, Executive Committee, and USC Committees.

Professor Novak reported that the Nominating Committee members would be Gay Miller, who will serve as Chair, Sandy De Groote, and Jorge Villegas.

VI. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items


Professor Burbules referred to a draft document in the packet. He said that there are new changes in addition to the proposed statutory amendment that would permit USC to initiate changes to the Statutes. The additional language, which was briefly discussed at the last meeting, would permit the president to initiate changes to the Statutes. Currently, the Statutes allow only the senates and the Board to propose revisions. Professor Burbules stressed that all proposed revisions should follow the same process of going to the senates through USC, before being sent to the Board through the president.

Professor Burbules commented that President Killeen and Vice President Wilson are almost done reviewing the proposed overall revisions to the Statutes and the General Rules. There has not been agreement on all of the proposed revisions, and there are no provisions for the President to initiate changes. Professor Burbules would like to work with the USC Statutes and Governance Committee to come up with a process to work through those areas where there is not agreement with the President and Vice President.
One area that needs additional work is the definition of the faculty. In addition, the documents need to be revised to reflect the University of Illinois as a system.

Professor De Groote suggested that the process for making revisions include more members of the USC SGC. Professor Miller agreed. In addition, she liked the suggestion that USC and the President work together to propose statutory revisions. Professor Vincent commented that she would not want to act on the new proposal until after talking with the President. She also thought that, wherever the proposed revisions come from, the subsequent process should be the same and stated once.

Professor Maher did not think that the new revision was necessary since there has been past practice of back and forth communication between the president and USC on statutory changes the president would like to support. In addition, if ST-79 is approved in its current form of allowing USC to propose revisions, the president could work through USC. Professor Maher felt that it was important to have a balance in the shared governance process. He also felt that it was very important to have an identical process no matter where the proposed revisions come from. Professor Burbules responded that this was his intention, but did not realize that the process for the senates to propose revisions requires a second reading whereas the process for the Board to propose revisions does not. Professor Maher said that another way to handle this would be for the USC Bylaws to define a process for communicating with the president when proposing revisions to the Statutes.

Professor Rao wondered if this change would lead to additional requests to expand who can propose revisions to the Statutes; asking where the line would be drawn. She liked the idea of USC working with the president, or whoever else who might want to propose a statutory revision.

Professor Burbules said that the SGC would discuss at noon language that might be incorporated into the current ST-79 language to include collaboration with USC and the president. If USC approves additional revisions to ST-79, they would have to go back to the senates.


The Urbana Senate’s USSP Committee has been asked to reconsider the language in consultation with CAFT.


Professor Burbules commented that the proposed revisions should be close to moving forward.


No new information.


No new information.

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

Professor Novak thanked Professors Johnson and Miller for working on and presenting the March report to the Board. USC discussed possible topics and presenters for the May meeting. Professors Burbules, DeBerry-Spence, Johnson, Novak, and Rao will work on the next report.


No new information.


No new information.

11. OT-338. USC Statement on Faculty/Staff Salary and Benefits. Transmitted to President and Vice President for Academic Affairs 12/7/16.

No new information.

No new information.


The Conference discussed possible future guests.

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

   Wednesday, March 15, 2017 Urbana-Champaign Sally Jackson

15. Campus Updates.

   No new information.

16. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

   Academic Affairs and Research Committee Meena Rao
   Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee Harley Johnson
   Hospital and Health Affairs Committee Mary Jo LaDu
   Statutes and Governance Committee Nicholas Burbules

   No reports.

17. OT-142. Updates on External Committees: Enrollment Management Policy Council (Jackson); Vice President for Academic Affairs Faculty Advisory Committee (Burbules, DeBerry-Spence, LaDu, 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 (Burbules, Miller, Villegas, Wheeler).

   No reports.

USC discussed the topics for the afternoon session and then recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:10pm.

VII. Meeting with President Killeen and Vice President Wilson

President Killeen introduced Ms. Laura Clower, his new Chief of Staff.

President Killeen said that he and Vice President Wilson had just returned from Springfield after having spent almost three days there in meetings with the Governor and legislators. The main topic was the budget. The second IPAC (University of Illinois Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment) hearing was held with the House Higher Education Committee. He commented that the Grand Bargain is a Senate-led bipartisan package of bills.
Vice President Wilson commented that the time in Springfield was productive. Student Day at the Capitol was held the day before. An amendment that has been added to IPAC that involves financial aid, Triple I, has been well-received. Institutional funds in the amount of $170M would be used to help undergraduates who reside in Illinois. She said that 45% of Illinois students leave the state to go to college. This number was under 30% twelve years ago. Triple I depends on the state’s commitment to funding outlined in IPAC. $170M would be the floor amount and would be used for both need and merit. President Killeen added that the students who leave are not those who would likely go to other in-state public universities. Of those who leave, 70% do not move back to Illinois. He said that he would provide a list of the top places students go who were admitted to each of the Universities but went elsewhere. Vice President Wilson indicated that acceptance numbers would be available soon. Members stressed the importance of including underrepresented students and diversifying the faculty.

President Killeen remarked that the U of I caucus is very important. The bipartisan group has regular meetings and interchange of materials. Ms. Clower commented that there was good reception from most people in Springfield. They realize how important of an asset the University is to the state.

President Killeen discussed the Enterprise Risk Management assessment that is taking place. There will be a report in May. Teams are looking at various aspects of risk assessment.

Vice President Wilson said that the University is monitoring the travel ban and working to make sure information is provided to those affected at the University. There are now six countries in the travel ban. There are 280 current undergraduate students and 20 faculty system-wide at the University who are from those countries. 50 students from the six countries have been admitted and plan to come here in the fall. Another concern is the change in processing of H-1B visas, which has slowed down considerably.

Vice President Wilson provided an update on the review of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs. A task force is looking at the mission, organizational structure, and funding. She hopes to have a report by the middle of April.

President Killeen said that he has been reviewing the proposed revisions to the Statutes with Vice President Wilson and members of Legal Counsel. The next step is to review and revise language in the document that defines faculty and make changes to reflect the University as a system. Vice President Wilson commented that it would be useful for the President to have the ability to propose changes to the language in the Statutes. Professor Maher said that initiating new changes and responding to proposed changes are two different things. He commented that there have been instances when the president has made suggestions to proposed amendments. Professor Maher read language that the USC Statutes and Governance Committee proposed during its meeting earlier in the day that would permit the president to propose amendments and refer them to USC for its consideration and transmission to the senates. The President supported the language and felt that it would address the problem.
President Killeen said that the University plans to initiate a program for recruiting stellar faculty, but the initiative is contingent on the availability of funds.

Vice President Wilson reported that applications and yield are up at all three universities. Numbers will be available soon.

Professor DeBerry-Spence provided an update on the search for a Vice President of Economic Development and Innovation.

VIII. Meeting with Chancellor Robert Jones

Chancellor Jones thanked the USC members for their work in shared governance. He commented that he has been here six months. Chancellor Jones was at the University of Minnesota for 34 years, starting as a PhD student, then working in a lab for a decade, and later setting out a career path in administration working on diversity and equity issues. After being deeply involved in administration at Minnesota, he was President of State Universities at New York at Albany for four years.

Chancellor Jones has been spending an enormous amount of time getting to know where the challenges and opportunities are at the Urbana University in order to continue the success of the last 150 years and move forward on setting the stage for what the University will be for the next 150 years. One issue is how to remain a preeminent institution while creating the land-grant university of the future. He said that the Urbana College of Medicine is critically important to the future of the university and could have a tremendous impact across other programs. Computer Science also reaches across many disciplines, pointing out a joint program with Crop Sciences. He commented that Urbana continues to be one of the highest recipients of NSF funding. The Seibel Design Center creates more of an interdisciplinary approach to learning. The research park attracts companies largely due to access to great students.

Chancellor Jones said that one of the biggest challenges to the University is the climate in which we live. The federal budget climate threatens to cut funding for TRIO, PELL, and the National Endowment of the Arts. The lack of a state budget prevents the University from being able to plan, recruit aggressively, and provide adequate financial aid packages. While our enrollments are up, others in the state are losing.

Chancellor Jones stated that he understands the importance of shared governance and values the ability to work together effectively.

Chancellor Jones commented that he was impressed when he came here and found out about all of the successes of the University. He stressed the importance of telling our story more effectively. We cannot afford to be one of the best kept secrets. There needs to be system-wide branding and marketing in order to promote ourselves. Donors want to see what their money will do to build the next level of excellence; not make up for the lack of state funding.
Chancellor Jones said that he and Chancellor Amiridis are working to find ways to collaborate that would be mutually beneficial to the campuses. While there are individual interests, there are ways to partner for the good of the institution. Chancellor Jones added that the possibilities are limitless with what can be done by working together to leverage resources and expertise.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.