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 commented on the Senate Appropriations Hearing that took place on March 24. The testimony, which was well-received, laid out the rationale for the 8.3% budget increase requested by the Board of Trustees. The budget priorities include student scholarships and recruiting and retaining faculty. Student enrollment has grown by 10% over the past five years, but faculty numbers have not. State legislators recognize the contributions that the University of Illinois System has made over the past year in ways such as healthcare, testing, and clinical trials. The Governor recommended a 0% increase before the federal relief package was signed.

President Killeen discussed the SHIELD Illinois and Shield T3 enterprises. There are 49 SHIELD Illinois sites in the state, with seven labs running 5,000 to 8,000 tests a day. The President commented that it is very important to not slow testing. There is particular importance in testing younger people who are not vaccinated and who are not getting tested frequently. All employees will soon be eligible to be vaccinated. The system is focusing on getting students vaccinated before they depart after the semester ends. Even with the availability of vaccines, testing is needed to contain the spread. The Center for Disease Control recommends surveillance testing, which the system has been doing. The University of Illinois is working with NIH to track the infection rate of vaccinated people. Students have been invited to participate in the study, which will also be able to track variants of the virus. President Killeen said that Shield T3, which covers entities outside of Illinois, is growing. He listed some of the partnerships.

President Killeen commented that the system most likely cannot mandate that students be vaccinated since the vaccines are under Emergency Use Approval. Testing will probably continue at least through the fall semester, and possibly longer. There is still the need to know where the virus is and what strands are present.

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1Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of April 28, 2021
The group discussed future funding from the state. President Killeen said that there is strong support for the system. The U of I caucus has over seventy members in the state legislature. The case is made over and over that the U of I is a profit center rather than a cost center. He believes that the current administration is very supportive, as was demonstrated with the 5% increase a couple of years ago. There is also strong support from the business community and growing public confidence. Over 72% of graduates stay in Illinois. There are 450,000 alumni in Illinois. The system has proven its commitment to affordability by freezing tuition six times in the last seven years. Executive Vice President Wilson (EVP) Wilson said that the state has been up-to-date on payments to the system, which has not always been the case. The state has contributed funds to DPI and IIN. She added that there is no doubt that the governor and legislators appreciate the work the system has done during Covid-19. President Killeen mentioned the Illinois Connection, which has 50,000 members who support and advocate for the University of Illinois System.

President Killeen commented that the term “rust belt” is not accurate for the Midwest, which provides one-third of the country’s GDP. He discussed the MOU with the University of Toronto, which creates the Binational Great Lakes Higher-Education Consortium. The partnership with the University of Toronto and other regional institutions aims to create synergies in areas such as artificial intelligence, environmental issues, and manufacturing. The University of Toronto shares the Great Lakes with Illinois and has roughly the same number of students, around 90,000. Toronto is globally connected, with 51% of its population coming from outside of the area.

President Killeen mentioned some of the programs that the Discovery Partners Institute is currently and will be working on. There is a rapidly growing internship program for middle school and high school students. There are programs in place to increase opportunities for underrepresented minorities and women. Nine science teams are writing proposals. The human capital component is very exciting. The physical DPI structure in Chicago is in the design phase.

President Killeen discussed the system’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Efforts have increased underrepresented students, retention rates, and first-generation students. He commented that nine out of ten students do not pay full tuition and fees. There have also been efforts to increase faculty diversity. The police chiefs have worked together on public safety issues. Each university has adopted the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and NAACP shared principles designed to build trust between police and communities of color. The system has procedures in place to increase procurement diversity.

EVP Wilson said that she was impressed that both UIC and UIUC were looking at ways to recognize diversity activities in promotion and tenure. She hoped that UIS would look at this as well. She said that there is a huge amount of work for underrepresented faculty from mentoring and meeting with students, and they should be rewarded and supported for this work. There is also public and community engagement work that goes unrecognized.

President Killeen said that the second round of support for expanding the impact of the Arts and Humanities is underway. He also commented that the system is thinking about faculty morale and how to preserve a safe environment for learning as faculty have stepped up during this difficult time.
The group had a brief discussion on the accountability of professors in classrooms and the need for there to be a process for students to provide input when there is inappropriate behavior.

President Killeen commented on the message that went out announcing plans to restore in-person learning for the majority of classes. The chancellors and provosts signed off on the plan, which will be subject to what is reasonably achievable at that time. University leadership has engaged with faculty. Surveys indicate that students want to be back in the classroom. There will be flexibility with faculty and students who feel unsafe returning to the classroom.

EVP Wilson provided an update on the efforts to create a consultation process on system policies. After she received the document from USC, she asked people in her office to take a broader look at the wide range of system policies and determine how they should be reviewed. There are many different stakeholders in these policies, some of which are not of an academic nature. She asked Associate Vice President Sarah Zehr to lead the effort to provide guidelines in a broader document that would speak to all kinds of policies. EVP Wilson said that she would bring the document to USC when it was ready.

President Killeen mentioned that the Board will consider a two-year extension on the test optional admission’s policy for freshman. EVP Wilson said that students are having a difficult time getting access to the ACT and other tests. The two-year extension will give admissions time to evaluate how the tests should be handled in the long term.

President Killeen said that there have been high-profile hires throughout the system. EVP Wilson commented that they system requested an 8% increase in state appropriations for students and scholarship, salary increases, and support for hiring. She offered to send salary benchmarks for each university’s peer group.

President Killeen briefly discussed DPI’s efforts to provide a pathway to digital careers for underrepresented students.

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

II. Enrollment Management Discussion: Kevin Browne (UIC), Natalie Herring (UIS), Daniel Mann (UIUC), Julian Parrott (System)

The session started with introductions. Mr. Mann said that he became Director of Financial Aid in 2008 and Director of Enrollment Management in 2017. Mr. Browne said that he has been in the position of Director of Enrollment Management for his entire eleven years at UIC. Ms. Herring said that she started at UIS in June 2018 in the position of Director of Enrollment Management. Mr. Parrott said that he is in his 30th year at the university, with the last three being in the Executive Vice President’s Office, where one of his duties is the liaison with the enrollment managers.

Mr. Mann reported that overall freshman applications at UIUC were up 10%, with 72.5% being applications in Engineering, LAS, and Business. More Illinois residents have been
admitted than ever before. There has also been an increase in non-resident applications. Transfer numbers are about the same as last year, possibly up slightly. Admission announcements were made February 19, and scholarship and financial aid information has been sent out. There are no campus visit programs for the 7,700 new students.

Mr. Browne reported that 4,000 freshman and 2,200 transfers have been offered admittance to UIC. Applications were down 1.9%. Admitted students were up 3.9%. The yield has not come through. UIC is looking to bring back the self-guided visitor program since all large-scale events have been cancelled.

Ms. Herring reported that there is a significant gap from where UIS was last year, so enrollment for fall is concerning. Applications are down. The goal is to come in at least flat from last year once acceptances come through. There has been some success with small Saturday tours. There is hope that the continuation of the test-optional policy and use of the Common App will provide a stronger footing.

When asked about net transfer numbers, both Mr. Browne and Mr. Mann responded that the number is on the positive side. Ms. Henning said that she does not have those numbers, but the number of transfers has declined for many years. Mr. Browne commented that the practice of not recruiting students that are currently at another four-year college is gone.

Mr. Mann said that UIUC is looking at ways to make it easier to transfer in. Mr. Browne said that they tell students that starting at a community college is a great option if money is a factor. UIC partners with community colleges and sends the transcript so it is easier for the student to transfer. Ms. Henning said that UIS is trying to break down the barriers for transfers. Dr. Parrott’s team is looking at transferability issues that are paramount for UIS.

Mr. Parrott commented that the University of Illinois System has a lot to be proud of. The system is number one in the number of transfer students that graduate with a bachelor’s degree. The U of I system houses the state’s Transferology records. Searches are based on zip code, and the system has the most searched courses for transfer. The state and its institutions are working to make enhanced improvements so the process is more friendly and less complex. He said that we have the tools to facilitate this.

The group discussed some of the factors that students base their decisions on when choosing a university, such as cost, the availability of financial aid, and location. Mr. Browne commented that the past year has proven that institutions need to talk about why there is value in the brick-and-mortar college experience. The university’s have a commodity and need to show value. All three enrollment management leaders said that they do have a list of feeder schools that they target for recruitment.

The group also discussed some of the factors that prevent students from enrolling at the universities. Mr. Mann said that some students have the perception that they cannot get into UIUC, particularly students from rural counties. Cost is also an issue. Mr. Browne said that location is also a factor at UIC, as well as other institutions providing better financial aid and having a quicker turnaround time. Ms. Herring said that there are course visibility concerns at UIS. Test-optional is good for UIS in the interest of fairness and equity.
While the Common App should be good for UIS, UIUC might find it less so. UIC began using the Common App about five years ago. Mr. Browne commented that nearly 50% high school grads leave Illinois for college. Mr. Mann said that UIUC does not have an application problem, but they are happy to be a part of the process. He commented that UIUC made the choice to move to test-optional due to the pandemic. Whether this is the way to go long-term will be reviewed over the next couple of years.

Professor Wade thanked the guests for the productive conversation.

III. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of February 24, 2021

Professor Jenkins moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Danziger 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 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. |

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

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

1. University of Illinois at Springfield, March 5, 2021

   Res 50-25 Establish a New Policy for Joint Graduate Degrees

   Res 50-27 Eliminate the Bachelor of Arts in Management
2. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 8, 2021

EP.21.047 Human Development and Family Studies, BS -- Major revision to the BS in Human Development and Family Studies, College of ACES, including the removal of concentrations. Related to the Elimination of the Child and Adolescent Development concentration Key 585 and the Elimination of the Family Studies concentration of the Human Development & Family Studies, BS Key 586


EP.21.056 Business Core -- Business Core Curriculum Revision

EP.21.057 Neuroscience, BSLAS -- Establish a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Neuroscience (BSLAS in Neuroscience), in the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

EP.21.058 Weather and Climate Risk and Analytics, MS -- Create an online-only Master of Science (M.S.) degree

EP.21.059 Sustainable Design, BS -- Revise the BS in Sustainable Design, FAA: replace 2 major courses (no total changes to degree hours), update major elective list, require additional advanced hours from major elective list, and 2 admin edits. Related to submission of new joint degree program, Sustainable Design, BS and Urban Planning, MUP [key 965]

EP.21.060 JP: Sustainable Design, BS and Urban Planning, MUP -- Establish joint program in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning for the BS of Sustainable Design (key 614, college-hosted major) and MUP in Urban Planning (key 454, in Department of Urban and Regional Planning). This proposal is submitted alongside revisions to the BS in Sustainable Design, key 614 and includes those revisions throughout this proposal
EP.21.064 Advertising, BS -- This proposal is for an increase in the required number of hours in the Advertising major from 24 to 36. The increase will be achieved through reducing the required number of elective hours students take in College of Media courses.


EP.21.070 Photography, BFA -- Revision to update to identify substitutions for ARTD deactivated courses.

3. University of Illinois at Chicago, March 17, 2021

PR-21.42 Proposal to Rename, Reorganize, and Revise the Master of Science in Public Health, Concentration in Biostatistics.

PR-21.43 Proposal to Rename, Reorganize, and Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health, Concentration in Biostatistics.

PR-21.44 Proposal to Rename, Reorganize, and Revise the Master of Science in Public Health, Concentration in Epidemiology.


PR-21.46 Proposal to Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health, Concentration in Community Health Sciences.


PR-21.48 Proposal to Rename the Secondary Concentration in General Community Health Science in the Master of Public Health, Concentration in Community Health Sciences.


PR-21.50 Proposal to Reactivate and Revise the Master of Science in Disability and Human Development, and Establish Concentrations in Disability Studies and Assistive Technology.
PR-21.51 Proposal to Revise the Minor in Disability and Human Development

PR-21.52 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Disability and Human Development

PR-21.53 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Science Degrees in the College of Business Administration

PR-21.54 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Finance

PR-21.55 Proposal to Revise the Minor in Finance

PR-21.56 Proposal to Establish the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Establish the Joint Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences/Doctor of Pharmacy

PR-21.57 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Spanish and Eliminate the Concentrations in Hispanic Studies, Hispanic Linguistics, and Hispanic Literatures and Cultural Studies

PR-21.58 Proposal to Revise the Minor in Spanish

PR-21.59 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Arts in the Teaching of Spanish

PR-21.60 Proposal to Revise the Registered Nurse/Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) Program

PR-21.61 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering

PR-21.62, Proposal to Rename the Minor in Bioengineering

PR-21.63 Proposal to Establish Five Additional Concentrations in the Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering: Polymers and Molecular Engineering, Energy and Environment, Nanotechnology, Process Automation, and Entrepreneurship

PR-21.64 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Business Administration

CP-21.02 Proposal to Establish the Post-Baccalaureate Campus Certificate in Special Education

CP-21.03 Proposal to Establish the Post-Baccalaureate Campus Certificate in Materials Engineering

CP-21.04 Proposal to Establish the Post-Baccalaureate Campus Certificate in Disability Legal Studies
B. The following items were classified III by the University Senates Conference:

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

   SP.20.32 Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, 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

5. **University of Illinois at Springfield, March 26, 2021**

   Res. 50-32 Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, 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

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

6. **University of Illinois at Springfield, March 5, 2021**

   sNc,u Res. 50-28 Recommend Addition of New Faculty Awards

   Res. 50-29 Resolution to Create an Ad Hoc Evaluation of Teaching Implementation Committee

7. **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 8, 2021**

   uNc,s AD.21.03 Implementation of a Test Optional Policy for the 2022 and 2023 Admissions Cycles

   EC.21.04 Revision to the Election Rules for the Academic Professional Electorate, Section 5 – Conducting Elections

   EP.21.003 Policy Guidelines for Developing Academic Calendars to Replace the Current Synopsis of Policies Governing the Academic Calendar

   EP.21.071 Request and Report to Suspend Admission to a Degree, Major, Concentration or Minor


   EP.21.069 Report of Administrative Approvals through March 1, 2021

   SC.21.09 Extension of the Term for the Athletic Board Faculty Representative to the Big Ten Conference, Christopher Span

   SP.21.06 Revision to Standing Rule 17.C – Questions to the Presiding Officer of the Senate
8. **University of Illinois at Springfield, March 26, 2021**

sNc,u Res. 50-30 Amend UIS Campus Senate Bylaws to Clarify the Charge, Composition, and Process of the Personnel Policies Committee

Res. 50-31 Revise UIS Faculty Personnel Policy to Clarify Chair Compensation and Appointment and Removal of Unit Administrators

Res. 50-33 Revise UIS Faculty Personnel Policy to Extend Non-Tenure Track Appointments

V. **Remarks from the USC Chair**

Professor Wade commented that she appreciated the enrollment perspectives from the three universities. She hoped USC could talk about whether to have additional meetings this summer. One topic for today will be adapting higher education post-pandemic, with a focus on competing for students and harnessing our potential to adapt to the changing environment. She added that, when much of the attention to the pandemic goes away, there will still be other challenges.

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

USC discussed the possibility of higher education post-pandemic being a topic at its fall retreat. Also, there were questions about the operations of DPI and whether there is competition with the three universities. The group wanted more clarity about DPI and its interactions and communications with the universities. USC members discussed the different revenue streams of DPI, how there are public/private partnerships, and the potential to build an infrastructure to address social issues.

**Explanation of File Numbers**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ST</th>
<th>University of Illinois Statutes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GR</td>
<td>The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure</td>
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<td>NC</td>
<td>Nominating Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT</td>
<td>All other items</td>
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VII. **Old Business - Action Items**


USC decided to forward the remarks provided by the UIC Senate to Executive Vice President Wilson for information and to provide no recommendations to the policy.
VIII. New Business

2. USC Observer to Board of Trustees meeting:

   Thursday, May 20, 2021 Livestream Magic Wade

IX. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

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

   Professor Wade commented that the next report would be May 20.


   USC decided to ask for an update from EVP Wilson at the next meeting.


   Professor Wade commented that the March 11 USC report to the Board presented by Professor Span touched on this subject. Professor Maher suggested that USC look at the lessons learned from the pandemic and discuss what the face of higher education should look like. He added that there should be a push to engage in initiatives in a handful of areas to address societal issues. Professor Brennan felt that there are some preferences for remote learning, and the university has not seemed to come to terms with how big of a change it will be to have classes with remote options. Professor Danziger said that it is common for only a small number of students to show up to large classes while others choose to watch remotely or watch the recorded class. Professor Wade questioned how to weigh bricks and mortar with students that want to Zoom in. Professor Span said that struggling high school students might not want to replicate the experience in college. Professor Campbell said that technology needs to be customized for smaller, better engagement. Professor Stroscio suggested that this topic and racism would be excellent topics for the USC retreat. Professor Campbell commented that the U.S. population is not growing, and we need to find ways for immigrants to be more embedded in our society.

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

   Professor Wade said that Professor Jenkins and Professor Razfar would be the USC-designated members of the DPI Executive Committee.


   Professor Wade reported that USC had responded to Jami Painter, so this item could be removed from the agenda.

8. ST-83. Revisions to the Statutes – new proposed revisions and proposed revisions from ST-77 that need further discussion (B File). Sent to the Executive Vice President 5/1/20.
Professor De Groote reported that the meetings of the Statutes and Governance Committee with EVP Wilson and other system administrators are ongoing. Professor Maher added that a total reorganization of Articles 9 and 10 are being worked on.


There was no new information.


Since all three senates had approved identical language, USC decided to transmit the proposed statutory revisions to the President.


There was no new information.


There was no new information.


The Conference discussed guests to invite to future meetings.

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

   Thursday, March 11, 2021          Livestream          Mitra Dutta

There were no updates.
16. OT-142. External Groups with USC Representatives: Enrollment Management Policy Council (Wade); President’s Executive Leadership Program (De Groote); Student Mental Health Services Summit Working Group (Hunt); Systemwide Digital Accessibility Policy (Wade); U of I System Going Forward: Excellence Amid COVID-19 Steering Committee (John Dallesasse).

EM: Professor Wade reported that the group is meeting again.

SDAC: Professor Wade said that the group continues to work on the policy.

PELP: Professor De Groote said that the group will be meeting in person.

Excellence Amid COVID-19: Professor Dallesasse said that the group receives high-level reports, mostly from the provosts. The group recently discussed commencement planning.

17. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

   Academic Affairs and Research Committee       Aria Razfar
   Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee         Roy Campbell
   Statutes and Governance Committee               Sandy De Groote

There were no reports.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.