

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Tuesday, April 22, 2014

PLACE: Room C, Public Affairs Center, Springfield

PRESENT: Boltuc, Campbell, Chambers (Vice Chair), Deberry-Spence, De Groot, Erricolo*, Fadavi*, Francis, Kalita, Kay, Leff, Maher*, Mallory, Miller, Mohammadian, Tolliver, Villegas (Chair)

ABSENT: Fisher, Graber, Wheeler

GUESTS: Lawrence Danziger, Robert Easter, Lauren Garry, Avijit Ghosh, Christophe Pierre, Lawrence Schook

*Attended by phone for part of the meeting

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

I. Meeting with President Easter

President Easter discussed two budget scenarios under consideration: the Governor's budget, which is optimistic, and a 12.5% budget reduction. When the President met with both the House and Senate appropriations committees, he was asked to focus on what a budget reduction would mean for the University. There seems to be a sense on both sides of aisle that there is a structural deficit with the current tax structure, resulting in the state not being able to meet its obligations. With a flat budget and modest tuition growth, the University should be in a position to go forward with a supplemental retirement program. The University does not have a competitive retirement program currently. There have been some concerns from the legislature with the University having a supplemental program.

The group discussed an error in the pension law that could persuade many employees to retire before July 1. Donna McNeely joined the call to clarify to what extent state employees can advocate to the legislature. She said that advocating for the University or employee-related issues, such as pension reform, are not considered prohibited activity. Employees may reach out using campus email. Employees should not be so aggressive that the effectiveness of the server is hampered or University responsibilities are neglected. The Conference decided to communicate a message to colleagues, through the senates, encouraging them to urge the legislature to correct the pension language.

There was a discussion of the future of the University and what is needed in the next president. The group pointed out some of the major issues facing the University and the

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of May 22, 2014

importance of having the appropriate structure in place to address them. President Easter commented that the process for reviewing the chancellors needs to be clarified so that the senates are fulfilling their statutory duties. USC members discussed campus processes.

President Easter commented that the president should not micromanage, but should be able to create initiatives and take opportunities. He stressed the importance of connecting with legislators beyond the regular hearings and developing relationships with them. The president should also reach out to other groups and be a leader in higher education.

Conference members felt that the dialogue on these issues should continue, but there should be some conclusions by the Board of Trustees retreat in July. The group also discussed whether University Administration being located in Urbana was effective, how to get relief from the procurement code, how to improve retention and recruitment of faculty, and how the University can become the best it can be.

President Easter provided an update on the Merit Board's audit of academic professional positions.

Vice President Pierre discussed the University Administration (UA) budget review process, which he believes might be the most important recommendation to come out of the UA review. UA units have not had a process for reviewing and allocating their budget or assessing needs and performance. A budget review advisory committee has been appointed and includes Professors Mohammadian, Villegas, and Wheeler. Several other recommendations of the UA review have been enacted. He and Vice President Knorr are responsible for implementing most of the recommendations.

Vice President Pierre said that the academic review will provide the provosts with data that could assist them in making decisions. The campuses have slightly different metrics. He hopes that most of the data can be obtained during the summer. Vice President Pierre clarified that the provosts are responsible for conducting the reviews.

II. Meeting with Dr. Avijit Ghosh

Dr. Ghosh discussed the pension law during lunch. The Money Purchase Formula (MPF), which is available to Tier I participants, provides an alternate way to calculate benefits using a specific interest rate. The General Formula is the other method. The pension law changed the interest rate used in the MPF from 7.75% to 4.5%. The law changed the interest rate retroactively instead of prospectively. For many Tier I employees, the new calculation would result in a much lower monthly annuity rate for those retiring after June 30, 2014. In addition, a clause that was meant to hold those eligible for retirement harmless from receiving a lesser benefit than what they would have received had they retired before July 1, 2014, was incorrectly written as June 30, 2013 instead of June 30, 2014. The error means that those who are now eligible to retire who decide to retire July 1 or later would revert back to the 2013 MPF calculation rather than the 2014 MPF calculation (unless the General Formula is the more favorable calculation).

Dr. Ghosh said that 5400 University employees are eligible to retire and 60% fall under the MPF. SURS has estimated that three times as many employees as usual are looking to retire; 540 employees have filed.

Dr. Ghosh said that there could be a long-term impact to the University in the loss of quality people and the difficulty in recruiting good people. It could also affect the economy of the state. The Conference discussed sending a resolution to the legislature asking that the date error be fixed.

III. Meeting with Vice President Schook

Vice President Schook reported that UI LABS became independently functioning on April 1. Microsoft is providing free rent and computers. Space has been identified on Goose Island. Many incredibly talented people are being hired.

The University won a grant to start a national institute for digital manufacturing. As part of this, the Illinois Manufacturing Lab (IML) has been launched with the Governor's office and will partner with UI LABS. The University must now build an agenda for IML and be in the position to capture innovations. IML will attract companies around the globe to be a part of cutting-edge technologies. There will hopefully be a profound economic impact.

Vice President Schook discussed the classified research document. He thanked Larry Danziger for suggesting that the University collectively move forward on such a document. The policy defines classified research and establishes an infrastructure for providing clearance to faculty. He commented that classified research is sometimes industry related and sometimes government related. The policy does not remove departments or the VCRs from the process.

Vice President Schook said that his office is working on a research agenda for the next five-to-ten years. He would like to include ten ideas that capture the strengths of the University. There are a number of things that we should be doing where we have been invisible. Vice President Schook invited Conference members to send suggestions.

IV. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of March 18, 2014

The minutes were approved as written.

V. 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.

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| 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. |

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

1. University of Illinois at Springfield, April 11, 2014

Res. 43-23 Proposed Amendment to the UIS Campus Senate Bylaws – Changes to Membership of the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils

Res. 43-24 Proposed Amendment to the UIS Campus Senate Bylaws - Changes to Membership of the Committee on Assessment of Student Learning

2. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 14, 2014

EP.14.19 Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to Transfer the Undergraduate Minor in Italian, and the Undergraduate Major Leading to the BALAS in Italian from the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese to the Department of French

EP.14.20 Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to Transfer the Administrative Homes of Faculty and Associated Non-tenure-track Academic Lines Within the Italian Program to the Renamed Department of French and Italian

EP.14.21 Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to Transfer Italian Studies from the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese (SIP) to the Department of French and to Change the Names of the Units to the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Department of French and Italian

EP.14.25 Proposal from the College of Business and the Graduate College to Eliminate the Graduate Minor in Finance and Establish a Graduate Concentration in Finance

- EP.14.26 Proposal from the College of Business and the Graduate College to Eliminate the Graduate Minor in Accountancy and Establish a Graduate Concentration in Accountancy
- EP.14.27 Proposal from the College of Business and the Graduate College to establish a Graduate Concentration in Business and Public Policy
- EP.14.29 Proposal from the College of Engineering to Revise to the Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- EP.14.30 Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to Transfer the Graduate Programs (MA and PhD) in Italian from the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese to the Department of French
- EP.14.31 Proposal from the College of Media to Revise the MS in Journalism and Establish the BS/MS in Journalism
- EP.14.32 Proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences to Revise the PhD in Speech and Hearing Science
- EP.14.34 Proposal from the College of Engineering to Establish a MENG in Bioinstrumentation

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

3. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 14, 2014

- uNc,s SC.14.09 Resolution on Supplemental Retirement System
- RS.14.02 Resolution in Favor of Student Loan Reform

The Conference decided to send the two UIUC Senate resolutions to the other senates for information.

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

None.

VII. New Business

As follow-up to the morning session, the Conference decided to form a small committee to look at issues related to the future of the University and the presidency. Professor Chambers agreed to lead the committee. While there was agreement that the Conference needed to respond to certain recommendations, members also felt that there should be more of a focus on academic excellence.

Professor Villegas reminded members to send suggestions to be considered for inclusion in Vice President Schook's research agenda document.

VIII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

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

Professor Villegas referred to a draft resolution on the pension error for consideration. Professor Campbell discussed a faculty pension statement from Northern Illinois University that was sent to CIUS members. Professor Chambers suggested that the Conference agree in principle to the resolution's main points and then appoint a small group to finalize the resolution. The group discussed specific topics to include in the resolution. Professor Tolliver agreed to work on the document along with Professors Chambers and Leff with a draft to be distributed the next day. The Conference agreed that the resolution should go to the President, the Board, and the Legislature. Professor Francis moved to approve the draft resolution in principle. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved.

2. ST-72. Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 2 (Academic Freedom). Passed UIUC Senate 12/6/10. Passed UIC Senate 9/22/11. Passed UIS Senate 12/14/12. Transmitted to the President 1/18/13. Revised language approved by USC 3/18/14. Transmitted to Senates 3/21/14.

Professor Villegas commented that the new revisions have been sent to the senates for consideration.

3. ST-79/OT-296. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the *Statutes*. Approved by USC 1/17/13. Transmitted to Senates 4/5/13. Revised language approved by USC 6/18/13. Transmitted to Senates 6/21/13. Passed UIC senate 9/26/13. Alternate language passed UIUC Senate 11/18/13. Transmitted to Senates 11/26/13. Passed UIS Senate 2/21/14.

Professor Villegas reported that the UIC Senate is still considering this item.

4. ST-77/GR-46. Revisions to the *Statutes* and *General Rules* – Edits and Updates.

Professor Villegas mentioned that Professors Deberry-Spence, Fisher, Kalita, and Tolliver are part of the Board's committee that is working on revisions to the documents. Professor Tolliver reported that the edits are really a series of many proposed amendments. The sense of the committee is that the review cannot be handled on a line-by-line basis, but rather by looking at the revisions as rewrites of the documents. USC has been asked to prepare the revisions for the senates. She said that Professor Campbell suggested putting the revisions into thematic groupings. Professor Tolliver noted that there is a separate committee looking at the section of the *Statutes* dealing with sanctions short of dismissal and that part will be dealt with later.

Professor Tolliver said that the document revisions are an initiative of the Board and is being led by Susan Kies. In addition to specific proposed revisions, there are some comments and questions written in the margins that need discussion. There is also a list of specific items that USC needs to consider. She thought that the first step might be to look at the revisions and see if they fall into thematic groupings. Professor Tolliver suggested that the USC Statutes and Governance Committee should decide how to proceed. The Board would like USC to forward usable documents to the senates by the end of the summer. She added that everyone has access to the proposed revisions. She asked USC members to provide comments and decide which changes are of a substantial nature.

5. NC-20. Nominating Committee for 2014-15 Officers, Executive Committee, and USC Committees.

Professor Mohammadian reported that the Nominating Committee is waiting for all of the senates to hold elections. The Nominating Committee will also work on filling USC committee vacancies.

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

Professor Villegas commented that USC will discuss its review of Vice President Knorr with the President at the next meeting. Professor Chambers made a motion to endorse the review. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved.

7. OT-298. Shared Governance in a Changing Environment.

No new information.

8. OT-304. Open Access to Research Articles.

Professor Villegas reported that the subcommittee of the USC committee on Open Access has put together a draft policy that will come to the Conference at some point.

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

Professor Villegas said that he and Professor Deberry-Spence are participating in the program activities. He has become more aware of the relationship with legislators and the pressures that go along with that relationship. The Conference discussed the upcoming search for an Executive Director of Governmental Relations.

10. OT-308. UA Annual Review Process.

Professor Villegas said that he will serve on the budget review committee along with Professors Mohammadian and Wheeler. The review will provide a culture of accountability.

11. OT-309. Presidential Search.

Professor Villegas commented that he will serve on the search committee along with Professors Burbules and Campbell. The Conference requested a clarification of the terms and responsibilities of chair and co-chair of the committee.

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

Professor Villegas commented that Vice President Schook has requested advice on the classified research document. Professor Wheeler said that the USC Academic Affairs and Research Committee would look at the document and make a recommendation. Professor Villegas added that there will need to be a classified research committee. Professor Wheeler clarified that there would need to be one on each campus.

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

No new information.

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

No new information.

15. OT-265. Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government.

No new information.

16. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

Guests to invite were discussed.

17. Designation of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

Wednesday, May 14, 2014, Springfield:

Lynn Fisher

18. Campus Updates.

Professor Villegas commented that the UIC contract was not available to the public or to non-union faculty. Professor Kay said that the chancellor's search has started. Professor Mallory brought up a matter on the UIUC campus of an instructor's contract that was not renewed. The reason for non-renewal could raise academic freedom issues.

19. 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

HHAC: Professor Chambers commented that the chancellor at Urbana circulated a report of a consulting group recommending that there be a separate medical group in Urbana that derives from Engineering. He said that the committee will discuss some of the principles involved.

AARC: Professor Wheeler said that the committee will work on the classified research document.

FBBC: Professor Campbell said that he would send the committee a presentation from the UIUC Senate budget committee that reveals how bad our pensions are in comparison to other schools.

20. 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.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.