

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Tuesday, April 26, 2022

PLACE: Videoconference

PRESENT: Burbules, Campbell, Dallesasse, De Groote (Vice Chair), Fisher, Jenkins, Kar (Chair), Maher, Peiravian, Razfar, Strahle, Stroschio, Tolliver, Varden, Weuve, Wink

ABSENT: Benson, Danziger, Erricolo, Kalita

GUESTS: Avijit Ghosh

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

I. Meeting with Executive Vice President Ghosh

EVP Ghosh provided an update on the chancellor searches at UIC and UIS. He commented that he appreciated the role of shared governance during the search processes.

EVP Ghosh said that the legislative session this year was abnormal in that it ended early, April 8, rather than going until the last scheduled day, May 30. He noted that there have been years when the session was extended past May 30. Part of the reason for the early adjournment was that Illinois primaries have been moved to July, and legislators wanted to be back in their districts before elections. On the budget side, the legislature adopted the Governor's budget, which was essentially a 5% increase on the system's operating budget. Because of factors such as the federal programs that were enacted for pandemic relief, the federal infrastructure bill, and the Center for Disease Control funds, most states have a little surplus of cash. The bulk of the legislative discussions were how to use the surplus money. The state economy has been doing better than what was expected. Some of the surplus money went to property and gas tax relief. There was also a one-time \$280M payment to the state pension system, which was on top of the regular payment earlier in the year. The state also put money into a reserve fund. The 5% increase for Higher Education was moved up to this year and will carry over to next year.

EVP Ghosh said that the appropriation from the state that goes to our operating budget is currently \$562M. The 5% increase of \$28M raises this amount to \$590.6M. The U of I System's general operating budget is \$2.3B. In addition to the \$562M, we receive around \$60M in special budget lines. Examples include \$40M to the hospital, \$15M to the Prairie Research Institute, and other smaller entities. The two largest recipients of the \$60M did not receive a budget increase. Some of the smaller entities did. EVP Ghosh said that two additional budget lines were added this year: \$3M to UIS for The Illinois Innocence Project and \$2M to UIUC for a special project to look at future jobs related to climate and energy. With everything combined, the state appropriation increased from \$622M to \$655M.

Responding to a comment, EVP Ghosh said that he and the chancellors have been meeting to discuss salaries. He acknowledged that we need to do better in that area.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of May 23, 2022

EVP Ghosh mentioned that MAP funding received a substantial increase of \$110M. The state provides financial aid according to need through MAP. Since the U of I System has 50% of the publicly enrolled students in higher education, 50% of MAP comes to our students. More students will be eligible for MAP awards, and the maximum allowable amount will increase. This will give the universities more flexibility in how to use their financial aid.

EVP Ghosh discussed how the state distributes funds to education. About five years ago, the system was successful in convincing the state to create a special funding mechanism for education in Illinois. Rather than distributing money to education from the General Revenue Fund, the state set up an Education Assistance Fund. Certain portions of various taxes go into this fund to support education only. This assures us that the cash will be available. In past years, payments were sometimes delayed for long periods of time. This is no longer the situation.

EVP Ghosh commented on the importance of advocacy as it relates to the governor and the legislature. While we realize that we will not get everything we ask for, advocacy has played an important role in achieving our goals. In addition to the budget, we were intensely focused on regulatory relief. One is in the area of procurement, particularly in building construction. There were also changes to procurement rules regarding thresholds of reporting and improving the process for obtaining access to diverse firms. Another accomplishment was extending the maximum allowable time for leasing space from ten years to thirty years. Responding to a question, EVP Ghosh said that he believes the public/private partnerships have been successful.

II. Meeting with Associate Dean Shelly Nikols-Richardson, Director of Extension and Outreach

Professor Kar welcomed Dr. Nikols-Richardson. She thanked USC for the invitation and presented a set of slides. Land-grant institutions have the three missions of teaching, research, and extension, which is often folded into public engagement and outreach. We are legislated by law as a land-grant institution to be engaged in extension and outreach. This is supported by the 1914 Smith Labor Act. In 1914, 38% of the residents of Illinois were in rural areas. Now, only about 12% of residents in the state live in rural communities. Getting to people virtually and remotely is important. Agriculture is the number one industry within the state when you include the entire scope of agriculture and food production. Within agriculture, farming accounts for 10%. The remaining 90% relates to areas such as food, marketing, and consumer consumption. The work the Extension does is intended to help rural, urban, and suburban communities by providing unbiased information they need to do their work. The vision for cooperative extension across all our land-grant institutions is to catalyze transformative discoveries, educate, and engage to address agriculture issues.

The underpinning of extension is in agriculture and mechanical arts and sciences. We must stay true to that mission according to federal funding that is provided. The mission here at the University of Illinois Extension translates science for practical application, connects people with unbiased science-based information created here on our campuses, and transfers this knowledge to residents of Illinois. We share information regionally and nationally. Extension is part of the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences at the U of I.

Dr. Nikols-Richardson said that the Extension is always conducting needs-assessments. They work with stakeholders to make sure the Extension is researching things that people need information about, and also delivering on curriculum and educational training and material that people find useful for everyday living. The Extension also works to mitigate poverty, encourage healthy lifestyles, and prepare youth for civic engagement. The Extension has strategic pillars that they deploy to achieve its mission and vision. They aim to solve grand challenges in an integrated and comprehensive way. One of greatest challenges is to balance rural, metropolitan, and urban needs and make the most of the resources they have. The Extension draws on its traditional strengths, which have been in food and agriculture, but also looks to incentivize creative thinking and entrepreneurship.

Nationally, the cooperative extension system worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to create grants to address immunization vaccination rates within our state. Illinois was able to implement vaccination education programs for underserved communities. By partnering, cooperative extension can address grand challenges by sharing funding and workforce. Grand challenges include building community, strengthening the economy, and providing access to food and healthcare. As communities are able to sustain these solutions, Extension moves on to something else.

Dr. Nikols-Richardson reviewed the six program areas: Agriculture and Agribusiness; Community and Economic Development; Family and Consumer Sciences; 4-H Youth Development; Integrated Health Disparities; and Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy. The Extension workforce is what drives the solutions of the grand challenges and moves knowledge from campuses out into the public domain, often through training and educational programs through Extension services.

Extension is sometimes the first encounter people will have with the University of Illinois System. They want to always make this a positive, well-branded experience for people across the state. Extension needs a robust workforce. This has been a challenge with budget cuts over last ten years, resignations, and upheaval with Covid-19. Dr. Nikols-Richardson discussed the Extension's multiple funding sources. She commented that they are stable right now. There is a mandate that local communities and counties must provide funding for Extension. Extension covers all 102 Illinois counties. Extension sees its future as building trust across the residents of the state. They are looking for new audiences in order to better serve the needs of underrepresented people and communities in the state.

Dr. Nikols-Richardson was asked how Extension serves indigent people, acknowledging that the University is on native American land. She responded that the work of Extension is for everyone. They would like to have more outreach in that direction. She added that Illinois does not have a tribal institution that has been designated by the state. Whoever meets the eligibility criteria and the need relates to farming, food, and agriculture production or anything along that sector, Extension is there to help. Various units work more closely with targeted audiences. They do not have a partner to work with to address the needs of Native American people. Extension recognizes that we are on tribal land. Many of their activities include a land acknowledgement statement.

Dr. Nikols-Richardson was asked whether there were opportunities for faculty, students, and programs at UIS and UIC to explore potential partnerships, given that the mission of

Extension relates to strongly to what people are doing on all three campuses. She responded that there were absolutely opportunities and encouraged everyone not to hesitate to reach out to county offices. Extension is open to exploring partnerships. She also discussed how Extension is engaged with the U of I System. There is an Extension educator embedded at the Discovery Partners Institute who is focusing on workforce development. One way is engaging students in immersive experiences. Dr. Nikols-Richardson commented that she has been asked to be part of the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN) as an *ex officio* part of the counsel. She said that there are various partnerships with other institutions within the IIN structure. IIN is an outlet to work with Extension. There is a partnership with UIC through the Extension's supplemental nutrition assistance program and through health-related activities. Nothing is formalized with UIS.

The Extension provides collaboration grants to fund work for meeting the needs of communities. The main requirement is that they want people to have field staff. Dr. Nikols-Richardson reiterated that faculty and units can reach out to their county office if they have something in mind.

Dr. Nikols-Richardson said that the Extension is engaged with the President of the U or I. Extension staff were part of the President's tour of the state. Several stops had Extension components to them, primarily in the southern part of Illinois. The southern sixteen counties have food deserts. There are four federal earmarks for Extension funding. One is the Dixon Springs budget line in the state budget. Extension needs to find a way to increase funding. They do not want to duplicate what the system is doing. Partnerships are the best way to go.

EVP Ghosh thanked Dr. Nikols-Richardson for her leadership. He commented that the Extension has done very well. There are a lot of opportunities to work with the system to address statewide chronic issues.

Professor Kar thanked Dr. Nikols-Richardson for meeting with USC.

III. Meeting with Joe Barnes, Chief Digital Risk Officer for the System

Professor Kar welcomed Mr. Barnes. He asked him to comment on his work at the system level and how shared governance fits in.

Mr. Barnes said that he has been with the University of Illinois for fifteen years, with the last ten overseeing privacy and security for UIUC and UIS. He then shared a set of slides.

Mr. Barnes provided background information on how his system position came to be. In 2019-2020, the System Executive Risk Management Council convened a task force to address cybersecurity across the entire organization. There were eight recommendations. Two of these addressed organizational structure and governance by establishing the Chief Digital Risk Officer role and enhancing the digital risk governance structure. The other six recommendations are large buckets of areas and efforts that are programs within themselves that the universities and the hospital have been working on for years. In the fall of 2021, the system conducted a national search for the Chief Digital Risk Officer position, for which Mr. Barnes was ultimately named. UIUC, UIC, and the hospital have chief information security officers. His role is to work with those individuals to look at how they are

addressing issues from both an operational and strategic perspective and then look for opportunities to collaborate, perhaps by doing things at scale across the system or focusing on specific areas that are unique to a particular university. He works very closely with the Chief Information Officers. The reason why the task force came up with the recommendation to create this role is because, for the last twenty years, both the privacy and cybersecurity teams have done a phenomenal job of working together across the institutions to address issues. However, some of the initiatives lost momentum. His role is to be an advocate for moving collaborations forward and connecting the appropriate groups.

Mr. Barnes said that digital risk is really the combination of cybersecurity, privacy, digital compliance, business continuity, and risk management. He illustrated why these issues are important. Mr. Barnes outlined the following objectives: new operational efficiencies, new service offering, and improve student experience. He then showed how these objectives can be affected by digital risks. He commented that we can be successful with our objectives and minimize digital risks. He is there to promote a culture of digital risk awareness, advise the various leaders on risk assessment and mitigation, maintain partnerships across the system, and guide system-level policy development and implementation. He described the three themes of prevent, prepare, and persevere. Collaboration is the key.

Mr. Barnes discussed the digital risk governance structure. A diverse group of people who represent the different functions and perspectives of the entire system are being brought together to be part of the Digital Risk Council. He is working on the membership and plans to have the council in place in August. There is a place for USC to appoint a member to the council.

Mr. Barnes said that there is a good operational response plan if there is a cyber-attack. There is a review of the Digital Crisis Management and Response Plans and efforts to close any communication gaps.

Mr. Barnes commented that he is available to talk with this group or other groups that USC believe would benefit from a presentation.

Mr. Barnes was asked if there are any reasons why our system might be more vulnerable. He responded that all universities are special in their own way. He thinks the U of I System is in a good position from a security perspective. Task force efforts in 2019 included benchmarking ourselves to third-party standards, and we scored well. We do some great things, but there is also room for improvements. He added that chief digital risk officers are not common in higher education, but it does create an opportunity to not only improve our posture but also to give back to the larger higher education community regarding process standards. Mr. Barnes was also asked what the relationship of his operation is with the state and other universities in Illinois. He said that certain groups within the system engage with IPATHE (Illinois Partnership for the Advancement of Technology in Higher Education), and there are similar conversations with state's IT department. Mr. Barnes mentioned that his operation also takes into consideration functions across the organization that address federal and international security compliance.

Professor Kar thanked Mr. Barnes for the informative presentation.

(The meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m. for a break and committee meetings.)

IV. Business Session Call to Order

The meeting was called back to order at 1:35 p.m.

V. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Kar commented that he felt that the morning session with EVP Ghosh and the two guests, Dr. Nikols-Richardson and Mr. Joe Barnes, was very productive.

VI. Approval of Minutes – January 26, 2022 and February 22, 2022

Professor Kar asked if there were any proposed revisions to the minutes. USC members discussed the level of information that should be included in the minutes. Hearing no objections to the minutes, Professor Kar declared that they were approved.

VII. 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 Jenkins moved to approve the classifications. The motion was seconded by Professor Varden and approved by roll call vote.

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

1. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 4, 2022

EP.22.114 Materials Science & Engineering, BS and Engineering: Energy Systems, MENG -- Eliminate the joint BS in Materials Science and

- Engineering and MENG in Engineering, Energy Systems Concentration
- EP.22.115 JP: Human Development & Family Studies, PhD and Public Health, MPH -- Eliminate the joint PhD in Human Development and Family Studies and MPH in Public Health
- EP.22.118 Financial Engineering: Automated Trading Practices, MS -- Establish the concentration in Automated Trading Practices within the MS in Financial Engineering
- EP.22.120 Music and Sound Studies Minor, GR --Establish the Graduate Minor in Music and Sound Studies
- EP.22.122 Industrial Engineering, BS and Engineering: Energy Systems, Meng -- Eliminate the joint BS in Industrial Engineering and MENG in Engineering, Energy Systems Concentration
- EP.22.123 Aerospace Engineering, BS and Engineering: Energy Systems, Meng -- Eliminate the joint BS in Aerospace Engineering and MENG in Engineering, Energy Systems Concentration
- EP.22.124 Agricultural & Biological Engineering, BS and Engineering: Energy Systems, Meng -- Eliminate the joint BS in Agricultural and Biological Engineering and MENG in Engineering, Energy Systems Concentration
- EP.22.125 Nuclear, Plasma & Radiological Engineering, BS and Engineering: Energy Systems, Meng -- Eliminate the joint BS in Nuclear, Plasma and Radiological Engineering and MENG in Engineering, Energy Systems Concentration
- EP.22.126 Systems Engineering & Design, BS and Engineering: Energy Systems, Meng -- Eliminate the joint BS in Systems Engineering and Design and MENG in Engineering, Energy Systems Concentration
- EP.22.127 Engineering Physics, BS and Engineering: Energy Systems, Meng -- Eliminate the joint BS in Engineering Physics and MENG in Engineering, Energy Systems Concentration
- EP.22.128 Compensation Best Practices, CERT -- Establish a Campus Graduate Certificate (CERT) program based on an existing LER college certificate program
- EP.22.129 Fundamentals of Human Resources, CERT -- Establish a Campus Graduate Certificate (CERT) program based on an existing LER college certificate program

EP.22.130 Human Resources Data Analytics, CERT -- Establish a Campus Graduate Certificate (CERT) program based on an existing LER college certificate program

2. University of Illinois at Chicago, April 21, 2022

PR-21.31 Proposal to Establish the Minor in Comparative Cultural Studies

PR-22.48 Proposal to Revise the Master of Science in Nursing (Post Licensure) Transition Program

PR-22.49 Proposal to Revise the Doctor of Nursing Practice Transition Program

PR-22.50 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering

PR-22.51 Proposal to Revise the Joint Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering / Master of Science in Chemical Engineering

PR-22.52 Proposal to Revise the Master of Science in Nursing

PR-22.53 Proposal to Rename the Department of Public Administration

PR-22.54 Proposal to Establish the Concentration in Financial Planning in the Bachelor of Science in Finance

CP-22.04 Proposal to Establish the Undergraduate Campus Certificate for Academic Spanish for Heritage Speakers

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

3. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 4, 2022

ucNc,s SP.22.06 Revision to the Bylaws, Part D.5.b – Committee on Campus Operations

EP.22.113 Report of Administrative Approvals through March 21, 2022

4. University of Illinois at Springfield, April 8, 2022

sNc,uc Res. 51-33 Clarification of Eligibility to Serve on Personnel Committees

5. University of Illinois at Chicago, April 21, 2022

cNs,uc Approved the UIC Faculty Senate Statement in Support of Critical Race Theory

VIII. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

IX. USC Committee of the Whole Discussion: Follow-up Items from Morning Session

Professor Kar asked for people's thoughts on the USC representative to the Digital Risk Council. After discussion, Professor Kar moved to ask Professor Campbell (who was not present during this discussion) to serve on the Digital Risk Council and, if he cannot, designate Professor Maher to serve in the role.

X. Old Business - Action Items

There was no old business for action.

XI. Today's Business

1. USC Committee Reports from Breakout Session.

Academic Affairs and Research Committee
Finance, Budget, and Benefits Committee
Statutes and Governance Committee

Aria Razfar
Roy Campbell
Nicholas Burbules

AARC: Professor Razfar reported that the committee is preparing its presentation to be given to the Board in May. The presentation will focus on mid-level career professional development. He plans to have draft slides to USC later in the week.

FBBC: No one from the committee was available to report.

SGC: The committee did not meet.

2. Assign Observer for Next Board of Trustees Meeting.

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Springfield

Celest Weuve

3. Chair Kar to appoint USC Nominating Committee

Professor Kar reviewed the rules and provided his perspective on potential committee members. After seeking advice, he appointed Roy Campbell, Lynn Fisher, and Mike Stroschio to serve on the Nominating Committee.

4. Discussion of university matters for information

Professor Wink said that there was an eight-day walk-out by the teaching assistants at UIC, which concluded the night before. They are waiting for an update from the President on UIC's Chancellor search.

Professor Weuve said that the UIS reorganization has been finalized for the most part. The faculty voted an intent to strike, which could happen as early as May 2. A group of faculty, which is not senate-related, is soliciting votes of no confidence in the UIS Provost.

Professor Kar said that progress on ST-83 in the UIUC Senate is delayed because input from the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure is needed and might not be available until fall. The Senate recently closed an audit being done by the Office of University Audits.

Professor Tolliver discussed concerns with the System's interpretation of FOIA, specifically the protection of faculty rights to their syllabi and intellectual property. USC decided to have a future session on this topic with invited guests.

Professor Fisher suggested another topic for USC could be to look at the audits that were conducted at each senate and USC. It was noted that there are some restrictions on the discussions of audit reports. Professor Fisher thought the discussion could focus on the senates' responses to the audit and how they made changes to their bylaws.

5. Topics to consider for discussion with next scheduled guest – Chancellor Jones

There were no suggestions. Professor Kar said that the USC Executive Committee would determine the topics.

6. University Updates

There were no additional updates.

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

XII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

1. OT-372. Proposal to establish a consultation process for system policies. Sent to Executive Vice President Wilson 2/3/21. Response from Executive Vice President 5/6/21. USC discussed moving forward on 6/24/21.

Professor Kar said that there is no new information on this item.

2. 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. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (SUC ST-83 following ST-77) transmitted to UIS, UIC, and UIUC Senates 9/2/21. UIC Senate responded with Collated Comments 1/12/22.

Professor Burbules said that input from the UIUC and UIS Senates would not be received this academic year. UIC is working on sending information before the summer.

3. 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. UIS Senate response 4/30/21. Transmitted to President 6/3/21.

4. ST-85. 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. Passed UIC Senate 4/22/20. Transmitted to UIS and UIUC Senates 5/1/20. Passed UIUC Senates 3/8/21. Passed UIS Senate 3/26/21. Transmitted to the President 4/5/21.

5. 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. Passed UIS Senate 4/9/21. Transmitted to President 5/5/21.

[3-5: ST-84, ST-85, and ST-86] Professor Burbules commented that these cannot go forward until ST-83 is sent to the Board.

6. ST-87. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article I, Sections 5 – Chancellors and Vice Presidents, Article II, Section 3a (1) – Faculty Role in Governance, and Article III, Section 1g – The University. Passed UIUC Senate 11/15/21. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 3/2/22.

7. ST-88. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article IV, Section 1 – The Department, Section 2 – Department Organized with a Chair, Section 3 – Department Organized with a Head, and Section 4 – Change of Departmental Administrative Organization. Passed UIUC Senate 3/7/22. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 4/6/22.

[6-7: ST-87 and ST-88] Professor Burbules said that the senates have been asked to not transmit any new proposed statutory revisions until they have dealt with ST-83.

8. OT-142. Updates from External Groups with USC Representatives: Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee (Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, Aria Razfar); Enrollment Management Policy Council (Donald Wink); President’s Executive Leadership Program (Aria Razfar); U of I System Going Forward: Excellence Amid COVID-19 Steering Committee (John Dallesasse); University of Illinois System President’s Advisory Council (Michael Strocio).

DPI EC: Professor Razfar said the interviews for the new academic director have been completed.

EMPC: Professor Wink said that the committee had not met in some time.

PELP: Professor Razfar said that the group has a trip to D.C. planned for June.

COVID-19 SC: Professor Dallesasse said that the committee had not met.

UI-PAC: Professor Stroschio said that the committee had not met.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.