

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Tuesday, June 18, 2013

PLACE: Room 314A Illini Union, Urbana

PRESENT: Andersen, Boltuc (Vice Chair), Burbules (Chair), Chambers, Erricolo, Fadavi*, Fisher, Francis, Gibori, Graber, Leff, Mallory, Mohammadian, Struble*, Tolliver, Villegas*

ABSENT: Campbell, Deberry-Spence, Shanahan, Wheeler

GUESTS: Sandra De Groote, Jan Dennis, Robert Easter, Prasanta Kalita, Christopher Kennedy, William Maher, Gay Miller, Peg O'Donoghue

* Attended by phone

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

I. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Burbules welcomed newly-elected members Sandra De Groote, Prasanta Kalita, William Maher, and Gay Miller. He also welcomed Jan Dennis from University Relations. Professor Burbules then reviewed the meeting schedule.

II. Meeting with President Easter

President Easter told the Conference that he would need to leave the meeting by 11am in order to travel to Springfield to talk about pensions. He reported that the Senate did not approve the pension plan that was passed by the House and the House did not call for a vote on the plan passed by the Senate. The President said that the IGPA six-step plan is gaining some interest. The plan transfers the cost of pensions going forward from the state to the universities – to be phased in over several years – increases employees' contributions by 2 percent, and changes COLA to one-half of the consumer price index. A new hybrid defined benefit/defined contribution option would be available for new employees. The plan also calls for changes in procurement and inventory regulations, calls for changes in the re-hiring of retired employees, includes measures to ensure that the state makes its payments, and includes university representation on the SURS board.

President Easter discussed plans for the July 24 Board of Trustees retreat, which will focus on clinical operations. He noted that the USC Hospital and Health Affairs Committee members had been invited to attend the retreat.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of August 22, 2013

President Easter provided an update on the status of the faculty members on the Urbana campus who are part of the UIC College of Medicine and have asked to be transferred to the College of LAS at UIUC. The issue has not been resolved.

President Easter suggested that faculty think about how to be more involved in the budget process; USC at the University level and the senates at the campus level. Several groups were mentioned that have input into the process, such as the UIUC Campus Budget Oversight Committee. He remarked that he liked how the USC committees are structured in parallel with the Board committees. The President said that he encourages a transparent budget process. Professor Burbules commented that the University needs to have a multi-year progressive salary program, even when there is uncertainty with the state budget.

The group discussed possible challenges with the co-existence of shared governance and collective bargaining, particularly if different groups of faculty are operating under different sets of rules. There was general agreement that clear boundaries that determine areas of responsibility should be defined.

Due to the morning session ending early, the agenda order was modified with approval from the Conference.

III. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

1. 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.

Professor Tolliver provided an update on the work of the Statutes and Governance Committee and its meetings with Peg O'Donoghue and Katherine Galvin. The group has reviewed first amendment rights in relation to academic freedom, an AAUP statement on ethical conduct, references in the UIS campus manual, and various court cases. Basically, the proposal sets out a more robust definition of academic freedom. One aspect of the proposal the committee has been looking at is the phrase "applicable standards of conduct", which circumscribes the limits of academic freedom. Another aspect of the proposal being looked at is the reference to "academic staff" member that replaces "faculty" member. The committee felt that "academic staff" was a reflection of the existing language. However, they are looking at other references in the *Statutes* to determine whether there is language that could be more specific about who is covered. The committee, along with Peg and Katherine, is hoping to come up with a background explanatory statement that could address concerns that have been raised. The committee would prefer not to change the language that has been approved by all three senates.

Ms. O'Donoghue commented on an additional issue that has received a lot of attention. The new language combines the academic freedom concept with the first amendment concept. She commented that President Easter is a strong proponent of academic freedom. She hoped that, at the next meeting, a path forward could be worked out.

Professor Burbules commented that he thinks everyone agrees with the value and meaning of academic freedom. He felt that some of the hypothetical issues that have been brought up are issues that are problematic in areas other than that of academic freedom. While he would prefer not to start the process over, if it is necessary to modify the language and send it back to the senates in order to satisfy concerns, this would be better than ending up with unintended consequences in the language. Professor Andersen felt that there is a lot of experience in weighing issues of what constitutes acceptable behavior and what does not. Ms. O'Donoghue mentioned that academic freedom at the U of I has statutory standing, unlike some other institutions that cover this issue in a handbook. She commented that there needs to be special care due to its standing. Professor Andersen suggested that the committee might want to contact Professor Matthew Finkin and Professor Robert O'Neil, both experts in academic freedom.

Professor Tolliver said that the committee would share a draft background statement when it becomes available.

Ms. O'Donoghue reported that Banner fixes have been identified that should make it possible to provide active ID cards to those who have retired and then returned to the University in an active role.

USC subcommittees had the opportunity to meet briefly before the meeting recessed for lunch.

IV. Meeting with Chairman Kennedy

Chairman Kennedy discussed the many challenges facing the University's medical enterprise. He recounted how the Cook County Hospital has positioned itself to be prepared for funding changes that will begin on January 1 and enroll a large number of patients, many who are in the same patient pool area as UIC. The University cannot aggregate control of its practice plan, according to state law. Chairman Kennedy said that President Easter has been positioned to appoint an advisory committee to help make decisions that will then be recommended to the Board.

The Conference recessed from the regular meeting at 1:45 p.m. in order to hold the 2013-14 Organizational Meeting. The meeting resumed while ballots were counted.

V. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of May 15, 2013

The minutes were approved with a couple of editorial revisions.

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

2. 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.

Professor Burbules said that revisions to the language that was approved in January were enclosed for consideration. The revisions make the processes parallel for the senates and the Senates Conference. The Conference approved sending the revised language to the senates.

VII. New Business

3. Designation of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

September 12, 2013 (Thursday)	Urbana	Carol Leff
Faculty report:		Jorge Villegas

Already assigned (for information):

July 25, 2013 (Thursday)	Chicago	Donald Chambers
USC Annual Report:		Nicholas Burbules

4. OT-300. USC Guidelines on Conduct of Business

Professor Burbules commented that the draft document is a merger of two USC documents: USC Guidelines for Conduct of Business and the USC Confidentiality Guidelines. He pointed out the part of the document that deals with how information is communicated between USC and the senates. The group discussed ways to communicate more effectively and how to deal with the implications of the Open Meetings Act.

Professor Tolliver made a motion that the Conference adopt a policy requesting that anyone calling in to a meeting or attending electronically be excluded from any executive sessions. She then rephrased the motion to state that only Conference members who are physically present may participate in an executive session. The motion was seconded. Concerns were raised with non-USC members overhearing the conversation that is taking place over the phone or electronic device, people hacking into the conversation, and what to do when meetings are held during videoconferences. There were also concerns about excluding people who are making the commitment to call in. Professor Leff thought there needed to be more discussion of the issue and made a motion to postpone the discussion of Professor Tolliver's motion to the next meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Conference decided to postpone a vote on the document since there were questions and concerns about confidentiality and on who can speak on behalf of the Conference. The Statutes and Governance Committee will review the document again and bring it back in the fall. Professor Tolliver asked that suggestions be sent to her.

Professor Burbules presented a plaque of recognition of service to Professors Kenneth Andersen, who had to leave the meeting and whose term would soon be ending, and thanked them for his service. Professor Andersen served 15 years on USC and served twice as USC Chair.

(III. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items – continued from earlier)

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

Professor Burbules provided a history and an update on the Academy. He met with the President of the U of I Foundation, Thomas Farrell, and there seems to be a movement in the right direction to correct some of the problems, including changes to the structure of the Academy's Board. Professor Burbules recommended leaving the topic on the agenda for future monitoring.

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

Professor Burbules said that the review process, which made a lot of progress early on, is on hold at the moment.

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

Professor Burbules commented on the draft of the report that he would be giving to the Board at the July 25 meeting. He said that he was careful to be clear that the report is his statement and not a statement of USC. Professor Burbules discussed the importance of the senates having control over academic policy issues. He added that it was important for him to state that he feels there is no place for collective bargaining in shared governance. Some Conference members raised concerns, some provided support, and some made recommendations. Professor Burbules said that his report is not intended to be anti-union, but rather pro-shared governance.

8. OT-299. UIUC Senate: Burbules/McCarthy Letter.

Professor Burbules suggested that this item be removed from the agenda. There were no objections.

9. NC-19. Nominating Committee for 2013-14 Officers, Executive Committee, and USC Committees.

This item was removed from the agenda. Professor Burbules mentioned that the Nominating Committee recommended that the nomination and election procedures be reviewed.

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

Professor Burbules reported that he is working with President Easter.

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

Professor Tolliver reported that she consulted with Legal Counsel. The Conference will continue to monitor compliance issues.

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

No new information.

13. OT-291. Recommendation to establish Faculty Advisory Committees for all four Vice Presidents.

No new information.

14. OT-123. Discussion of University Senates Conference guests.

Possible future guests were discussed.

15. Campus Updates.

There were no reports.

16. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

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

There were no reports.

17. *Ad hoc* Committee on SB1900.

No new information.

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

No new information.

19. 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 (Burbules, Chambers, Mohammadian, Villegas); Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee (Boltuc, Chambers, Wheeler).

There were no reports.

20. Review of Pending Items.

The following items were approved for removal from the pending agenda since there has not been any action or information for quite some time. The items will be monitored.

OT-167. Faculty Representation to the Board of Trustees.

In June 2000, the Resolution on Faculty Representation to the Board of Trustees was transmitted to the President who in turn forwarded the resolution to the Board. The resolution, which was developed by the Conference and approved by each senate, requests a faculty voice from each campus at the Board table. (This resolution was also transmitted to Dr. Ikenberry in December 2009.)

OT-248. Intellectual Property Issues.

After the Intellectual Property section of The General Rules was revised in September 2009, some Conference members felt that there were additional issues that needed to be addressed, such as what constitutes usual and customary resources that are provided.

OT-260. University Information Security Policy.

The University Technology Management Team approved an interim University Information Security Policy that USC and the three campuses reviewed. The Information Security Policy, and other related IT policies, can be found at http://www.aits.uillinois.edu/i_t_policies.

OT-262. Accelerated Degree Program.

The Conference decided to wait to see what the campuses do.

OT-268. Administrative Reorganization.

The Conference continues to review the various changes in Campus and University Administration.

OT-276. Performance Based Funding.

The VPAA occasionally reports the ramifications of this initiative.

OT-280. Faculty Participation in Shared Governance at the University of Illinois.

The Conference discussed best practices for providing advice to the President and to the Board of Trustees.

Professor Burbules presented plaques to Professors Geula Gibori and Leslie Struble, whose terms would soon be ending, and thanked them for their service. He also recognized Professor Tim Shanahan, who could not be at the meeting.

Professor Chambers presented a plaque to Professor Burbules, and thanked him for his service on USC and as USC Chair.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.