

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Tuesday, June 19, 2012

PLACE: General Lounge, Illini Union, Urbana

PRESENT: Andersen, Burbules (Vice Chair), Chambers (Chair), Fadavi*, Fisher*, Francis, Gibori, Leff, Mallory, O'Brien, Patston*, Shanahan*, Struble*, Villegas, Wheeler

ABSENT: Boltuc, Campbell, Erricolo, Graber, Mohammadian

GUESTS: Robert Easter, Christophe Pierre, Larry Schook, Joyce Tolliver

*Attended by phone

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

I. Meeting with President-designate Easter and Vice President Pierre

President Easter commented that the Senates Conference's position on pensions was a great deal of help for him when interacting with state government in Springfield. The governor and legislators heard from various groups. In the end, plans fell apart. The University had taken the position that it would cover the normal pension costs going forward. The state has said that it would take responsibility for the accumulated liability.

President Easter said that the state plans to reduce the University's General Revenue Funds by 6.14% this coming fiscal year. However, the University must continue to move forward. The University benefits from tuition as new cohorts come in at the new rate. The President said that the state contributes around 15% of the University's operating budget. Overall, the state contributes around 30% when including payments on behalf, such as health care and pensions. Vice President Pierre said that the state would be contributing \$662M to the operating budget this coming year. President Easter added that the state also invests in the physical aspect of the campuses through capital projects. Professor Chambers expressed concern over the cuts in Medicaid, which will hurt the hospital.

The group discussed the challenges that students and their parents face to pay tuition and student loans. The President questioned the sustainability of the current model. He said that the University has to be very serious in decisions about what the future should be – ambitions, obligations, and how to steward resources in order to do what we need to do. Professor Burbules commented that the University needs a long-term plan; not a series of one-year plans. Vice President Pierre mentioned that UIC and UIUC have lost hundreds of faculty members. There needs to be a plan for priority areas and reinvestment.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of August 23, 2012

President Easter said that the University brings in around \$700M in research each year. He commented that there is a gap of 5-7% in the coverage of administrative costs through ICR. The group discussed some of the advantages of research – hiring and attracting faculty, enhancing teaching, hiring post docs and technical staff, contributions to the economy, and scholarship. The group also discussed the costs from overregulating research. Professor Wheeler discussed efforts by the University to obtain an enterprise-wide grant tracking system that would help faculty save time and money.

Vice President Pierre said that there has been a revolution in the cost of research in Engineering by using modeling and simulation as opposed to experimental work, which is very expensive. He added that the computer-based research is very complex and sophisticated.

Vice President Pierre reported that the Enrollment Management Policy Council is ready to go. He thanked the Conference for its nomination of Professor Carol Leff to the council. Vice President Pierre said that enrollment management cuts across many different areas – admissions, financial aid, and student diversity as examples. The first order of business for the council will be to determine short and long-term goals, while taking into account the differences of the campuses.

Vice President Pierre said that he is eager to create a VPAA Faculty Advisory Committee. He has received nominations from a number of constituents and has received an extensive list of names. Vice President Pierre said that the committee will advise him on academic matters that arise. He added that he will still bring ideas to the Senates Conference and the groups will not operate in isolation.

Vice President Pierre provided an update on the Climate Survey. The survey, which was conducted this past fall, went out to 100,000 faculty, staff, and students. There was a 16% response rate. The survey found that there is general satisfaction with the overall climate. The purpose of the survey was to assess the perceptions of the climate. The next step is to create a small cross-campus committee to identify areas where there could be improvements. Decisions and implementation will be left up to the campuses.

Vice President Pierre said that the University has a good relationship with IBHE and will strive to take a leadership role in important issues that need to be addressed.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and resumed at 1:05 p.m.

II. Guest

Vice President Schook thanked Professors Chambers and Wheeler for helping to get the Conflict of Commitment and Interest policy revisions through. He commented that there needs to be a more active way of dealing with policies since the mood in Washington seems to be more than less. He noted that the Intellectual Property Committee is defined

in the *Statutes* and appointed by the President. He also noted that he has put together a VPR Faculty Advisory Committee. Vice President Schook suggested that the VPR FAC also serve with IPC in order to get a better sense of what problems need to be addressed. He asked the Senates Conference to think about this.

Vice President Schook stated his office's specific aims: 1) Advocacy and communications, 2) Creating value for campuses and communities, and 3) Stimulating creativity and innovation.

Vice President Schook reviewed some of the accomplishments of this past year. The office has improved communications by putting out electronic newsletters, updating its websites, using new social medias – such as blogs, Twitter feed, and Facebook, having memberships on councils and operating boards, and meeting with the provosts, vice chancellors for research, VPHA and VPAA on a regular basis. The office has created value through its research parks and affiliations with other entities, such as the Illinois Medical District and City of Chicago. The office supports efforts to secure coordinated grants. His office works to create an environment that spurs innovation. There are initiatives to help faculty work through the grant process more efficiently.

Vice President Schook said that the University will strive to become a leader in promoting a national research agenda. The University needs to generate ideas and train leaders and will be creating partnerships and making significant investments. The University has an incredible amount of talent and should create an entity that can respond to political and industrial needs in a nimble, creative, short period of time.

The Conference recessed from the regular meeting at 1:55 p.m. in order to hold the 2012-13 Organizational Meeting. The regular meeting resumed at 2:05 p.m.

III. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of May 22, 2012

The minutes were approved.

Explanation of File Numbers

ST - University of Illinois *Statutes*

GR - *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*

NC - Nominating Committee

OT - All other items

IV. New Business

1. Designation of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

July 19, 2012
(Thursday)

Chicago

Mary Mallory

Professor Chambers encouraged Conference members to attend the meetings of the Board committees next year. Professor Burbules said that he would like to see a formal, structured relationship with USC and the Board committees. He commented that this could be done with restructuring the USC committees.

V. Old Business – Action Items

None.

VI. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

2. NC-18. Nominating Committee for 2012-13 Officers and Executive Committee.

Professor Andersen moved to remove this item from the agenda. By voice vote, the motion was approved.

3. OT-288. Resolution on Pensions. Approved UIUC Senate 4/30/12. Approved UIC SEC 5/2/12. Approved UIS Senate 5/4/12.

Pensions were discussed with President Easter and Vice President Pierre during the morning session.

4. OT-269. Cross-Campus Dialogue (formerly Call for a University-wide Summit on Organization and Governance).

Professor Chambers said that all USC members would be invited to the Board retreat on July 18.

5. OT-271. University Senates Conference presentations to the Board of Trustees.

Professor Chambers commented on his May 31 presentation to the Board.

6. OT-276. Performance Based Funding.

No new information.

7. ST-72. Consideration of the language in the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 2 (Academic Freedom). Passed UIUC Senate 12/6/10. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 2/7/11. Passed UIC Senate 9/22/11.

Professor Villegas reported that the UIS Senate is still considering this item. Professor Burbules said that, after the UIUC Senate approved the language, campus legal counsel discovered some scenarios where a strict reading of the revisions could be interpreted to cover a range of situations that were never intended to be covered. He reminded the Conference that he forwarded some of the scenarios. He said that the General University Policy Committee will most likely revisit the language in the fall. He commented that this does not preclude what the other senates and USC decide to do. Professor Wheeler said that the UIUC Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee has no problem with the current language. Professor Andersen commented that it is important for faculty to understand what the threats might be and what the issues are.

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

The Conference discussed possible guests for future meetings.

9. Campus Updates.

Professor Wheeler reported that the Urbana Senate approved the statement on pensions at its last meeting. The Conference discussed whether a senate should be able to take a vote on a report that was not on the agenda as an action item. There was concern that this would be in violation of the Open Meetings Act because there would be no advanced notice of the action item.

10. OT-142. Update on External Committees: Enrollment Management Policy Council; External Relations Management Team; Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee; University Technology Management Team.

VPR FAC

May 3, 2012

Chambers

The Conference decided to contact Mr. Tom Hardy about the USC representative to ERMT. Professor Chambers asked USC members to send recommendations for membership to Vice President Pierre's Faculty Advisory Committee to him by the following Friday, June 29. Professor Burbules asked that the VPAA FAC be added to the list of external committees. Professor Wheeler said that the VPR FAC needs a USC member from UIS. He also suggested that Vice President Schook be invited back to discuss new initiatives in more detail.

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

Professor Andersen asked about the status of the reviews. Professor Chambers said that the reviews had been precluded due to President Hogan's resignation. He added that a timetable and procedure should be determined with President-designate Easter.

Professor Chambers presented a plaque to Professor Nancy O'Brien, whose term would soon be ending, and thanked her for her service on the Senates Conference.

The Conference members thanked Professor Chambers for his service as Chair this past year.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Pending USC Items
June 19, 2012

OT-167. Faculty Representation to the Board of Trustees. UIUC Resolution 9/27/99. UIS Resolution 11/5/99. UIC resolution 12/2/99. USC Resolution to Senates 2/3/00. Endorsed by UIS 2/18/00. Endorsed by UIC 3/9/00. Endorsed by UIUC 4/24/00. Transmitted to the President 6/30/00. Transmitted to the Board 7/6/00. Letter from Trustee Eppley institutionalizing process for meetings with Chair of BoT Academic Affairs Committee and senate observers 12/1/04. Letter to Ikenberry 12/10/09.

OT-248. Intellectual Property Issues.

OT-260. University Information Security Policy.

OT-262. Accelerated Degree Program.

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

OT-266. Proposed revisions to the *University Senates Conference Organization and Functions* – (including proposed revisions to the subcommittee structure).

OT-268. Administrative Reorganization.

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