

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Tuesday, June 22, 2010

PLACE: 206 Student Center West, UIC

PRESENT: Barrett, Burbules, Chambers, Eisenhart (Chair), Fadavi, Francis, Jones, Kaufman, Martin*, Massat, Ramsey, Ting, Tolliver, Weech, Wheeler (Vice Chair)

ABSENT: Campbell, Finnerty, Koronkowski, O'Brien, Patston

GUESTS: Kenneth Andersen, Geula Gibori, Stanley Ikenberry, Christopher Kennedy, Mrinalini Rao, Leslie Struble*

*Participated by conference phone

Professor Kathryn Eisenhart, Chair, called the University Senates Conference to order at 9:30 a.m.

I. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of May 26, 2010

The following errors were noted: pg. 5, line 4, change “duel” to “dual”; pg. 6, last line, change “Sigma” to CIGNA”. The minutes were approved as amended.

II. Executive Session

President Ikenberry said that the overall state of the University is reasonably good considering where we could be and what we have been through. The University community has worked through losing its governing board, its president, and one chancellor, while going through an unprecedented financial crisis. President Ikenberry said that President White was instrumental in getting him on board and ensuring a smooth transition in leaderships. A successful presidential search has been carried out. Dr. Michael Hogan will take over on July 1. President Ikenberry said that he will work by President Hogan's side for six weeks and then work part time on assignments that President Hogan gives to him.

President Ikenberry commented that state government is not taking any further action to address financial problems. There are still some unresolved issues related to the state's borrowing. After the unpaid balance of FY10 funding is caught up by the state, there will most likely continue to be a similar or worse cash flow problem in FY11. The state's public universities are now authorized to borrow.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of August 30, 2010

President Ikenberry said that FY11 appropriations will most likely be the same as FY10 appropriations, but excluding stimulus funds. The legislature passed a budget that was \$500M less than what the Governor proposed, so cuts will have to be made to the state budget. Even with spending cuts and a tax increase, the state will have a multi-year recovery.

President Ikenberry said that the two broad strategies of the Administrative Review and Restructuring Working Group were to find ways to reduce administrative costs and improve administrative services. He commented that there have been other efforts to trim administrative costs over the past several years. Currently, the University is looking at cutting \$50M-\$60M. The biggest immediate opportunity to explore is in information technology, which is highly centralized, fragmented, and expensive. Another area to look at is development. The University has poorly organized fundraising relations with no oversight. Purchasing also deserves some consideration. The University is not taking advantage of its basic purchasing power. Savings could flow down through the organization. The University will also be looking into outsourcing services. Improvements are also needed in Human Relations. The President said that it is best to tackle administrative costs and reinvest in academics. Conference members reminded the President that the senates need to discuss anything that would have an impact on academics. The group also discussed the impact of regulatory burdens on performance.

President Ikenberry thought that there was a healthy relationship between the administration and the faculty. He said that he welcomes counter advice. He advised the Senates Conference to strengthen its line of communication and bond with the president. The President should feel free to use the Senates Conference as a sounding board. There was a discussion of the roles of University and campus administrators.

III. Guest

Trustee Christopher Kennedy, Chair of the Board of Trustees, commented on the challenges faced by higher education from the collapse in the economy. Illinois is having a particularly difficult time. Slow job growth is predicted over the next two years.

Trustee Kennedy said that the Springfield and Urbana Chancellor positions would be filled after the new president is hired. The University needs to stabilize and create a structure that will allow us to build on the assets we have. The University should seek more funds from other sources and increase opportunities for additional federal funding. He would like to look into how other universities model governmental affairs. Trustee Kennedy said that UIC is doing well in accepting students from low-income families regardless of complaints from certain politicians. One-third of UIC students pay zero tuition.

Trustee Kennedy and the Conference discussed the benefits and challenges of academic collaborations among the campuses. Trustee Kennedy commented that the University needs someone capable of cobbling together the assets of the campuses.

The Conference discussed the advantages that would come from having faculty as a resource at the table of Board of Trustees meeting. Some members thought that faculty should also have a vote. Trustee Kennedy responded that the Board is trying to figure out how to work together. He added that there is very little discussion at the meetings. Most discussions occur in smaller meetings beforehand. He felt that there were other ways to have dialogue and get faculty input. Conference members were interested in being more involved with the subcommittees of the Board. President Ikenberry suggested that the Conference bring issues to the President for discussion. Trustee Kennedy commented that it might be useful for some USC members to have a conference call with certain trustees to go over agenda items before Board meetings.

The Conference members thanked Trustee Kennedy for meeting with them.

Professor Eisenhart presented certificates to Professors James Barrett, Barclay Jones, and Elliot Kaufman, whose terms would soon be ending, and thanked them for their service.

The Conference recessed from the regular meeting at 1:50 p.m. in order to hold the 2010-11 Organizational Meeting. The regular meeting resumed at 2:00 p.m.

Explanation of File Numbers

ST - University of Illinois *Statutes*

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

BG - University Administration Budget and Benefits Study Committee

NC - Nominating Committee

OT - All other items

IV. Old Business – Action Items

There were no action items.

V. New Business

1. GR-43. Proposed Revisions to the *General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, Article I, Section 2, b-f.

Professor Eisenhart said that there was a draft document for consideration. Professor Anderson suggested that someone from the Conference talk with incoming-President Hogan about his plans for the Executive Vice President position and then the Conference could come up with a proposal to be sent to the senates in the fall. Professor Burbules suggested that the Conference provide a detailed response to the overall ARR report,

which would include the issue of consolidating the two vice president positions. Professor Chambers suggested that the ad hoc committee that had been created at the last meeting prepare a document for discussion at the USC retreat. Professor Tolliver suggested coordinating the timing of a response to President Hogan with a proposal to revise the *General Rules*. The Conference agreed to proceed with finding out how President Hogan views the new vice president position and to provide a response to President Hogan in regards to the ARR report. The Conference discussed timing and decided that comments should be sent to Professor Chambers by August 1. The Conference also decided to ask for the reports of the ARR subcommittees.

2. OT-263. 2010 USC Annual Retreat.

The Conference discussed plans for the retreat on September 21 and the monthly meeting on September 22 in Urbana. It was noted that the Board of Trustees will hold committee meetings the afternoon of the 22nd. The Conference decided to begin the retreat either in the afternoon or evening of the 21st, and start the meeting earlier than usual on the 22nd.

The Conference decided to try to schedule a dinner meeting with President Ikenberry and President Hogan in July.

VI. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

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

The Conference decided not to go through the annual review process this year since the current president is in an interim position and two of the vice president positions are uncertain. The Conference acknowledged that if any serious problems arise, the president should be notified promptly.

4. 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.

Professor Eisenhart mentioned that this issue was discussed with Trustee Kennedy.

5. ST-66. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article VIII – Changes in Academic Organization. Passed UIUC Senate 4/24/06. Transmitted to Senates 7/10/06. Passed UIC Senate 3/15/07. Passed UIS Senate 9/26/08. Revised document transmitted to Senates 1/16/09. Passed UIS Senate 2/13/09. Passed UIC Senate 4/23/09. Passed UIUC Senate 4/27/09. Transmitted to President 5/7/09. Passed UIUC Senate with revisions 3/29/10. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 4/9/10. Endorsed UIS Senate 4/23/10.

Professor Eisenhart said that the UIC Senate plans to act on this item in the fall.

6. OT-211. Process for Selecting Board of Trustees Members.

Professor Barrett commented that the Conference might want to remind the Governor's Office that the group met with Ted Chung and Julie Smith about the selection process and was told that there would be further discussions. Professor Eisenhart said that she would contact Julie Smith.

7. OT-259. Conflict of Commitment and Interest Policy.

Professor Eisenhart said that the Conference should receive the revised policy this summer.

8. OT-260. University Information Security Policy.

No new information.

9. OT-261. Short-Term and Long-Term Budget Planning.

No new information.

10. OT-262. Accelerated Degree Program.

Professor Eisenhart said that this issue is at the campus level.

11. NC-16. Nominating Committee for 2010-11 Officers and Executive Committee.

The committee reported during the organizational meeting.

12. ST-72. Consideration of the language in the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 2 (Academic Freedom).

No new information

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

The Conference discussed possible guests to invite to future meetings.

14. Campus Updates.

Professor Tolliver reported that a subcommittee of the Senate Executive Committee has been meeting weekly with the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and staff to talk about the budgetary review. Professor Burbules provided an update on the Academy of Capitalism and Limited Government. The important issue to focus on is bringing the group under proper governance and review.

Professor Chambers reported that Provost Tanner plans to resign as of January 15 and plans to continue on the faculty. He predicted that the ARR report recommendation for a Vice President for Health Affairs will generate much discussion at UIC.

15. OT-142. Updates on the Management Teams: Academic Affairs; External Relations; Technology and Economic Development Cabinet; University Technology.

No meetings were held.

16. Designation of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

Thursday, July 22, 2010, Chicago

Carol Massat

17. Review of Pending Items on the Agenda Addendum.

No new information.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Pending USC Items
June 22, 2010

GR-41. Review of language in *The General Rules*, Article V, Section 3 – Private Use of University Property Forbidden.

The Conference has considered whether *The General Rules* should be revised to allow for guidelines to be established that reflect common practices of using University property, such as telephones and computers, for reasonable personal use.

OT-202. Review of the *University Senates Conference Organization and Functions*.

The document was last updated in May 2008. The Conference has discussed the possibility of clarifying such items as terms of retirees, succession planning, and inviting the senate chairs to attend meetings if they are not a member of USC.

OT-219. Future USC Meeting Dates.

Several years ago, the Conference decided to have a three-year meeting schedule. Often, many dates were changed and the Conference decided it was best to determine dates year-to-year.

OT-231. Shared Governance Issues.

The Conference created a document titled *USC Faculty Perspective on Shared Governance at the University of Illinois*, which is dated September 26, 2006. The document was shared with the President with the request that he share the document with the members of the Board of Trustees.

OT-232. Interactions with Legislators.

The Conference was regularly meeting with legislators or other government officials up until a couple of years ago.

OT-239. Senate Joint Resolution – IBHE master plan for Illinois Higher Education.

The Conference received the IBHE document in June 2007.

OT-247. USC Budget.

The Conference reviewed its spending in an attempt to reduce costs. Changes that were made: at least one videoconference is scheduled each year; having a dinner the night before a USC meeting at each campus once a year has been eliminated, although special dinners are occasionally held; and the cost of the retreat was scaled back in 2009. Also, members were asked to carpool and avoid overnight stays when possible.

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-249. Exit Interviews.

The Conference obtained information from each campus in regards to its exit interview process. The Conference believed that a comprehensive exit interview and/or exit survey process could be beneficial to better understand why faculty are successfully being recruited by other institutions.

OT-252. Vendor Code of Conduct.

The Conference intended to discuss this item with Vice President Knorr. The code has been viewed as being unenforceable.

OT-253. Program Review Process Collaboration among the Campuses.

The Conference questioned whether the classification of senate minutes practice was viewing educational policy items late in the process. Members wondered if there should be more collaboration among the campuses as programs are being developed.

OT-256. Positive Time Reporting.

There have been discussions in regards to positive time reporting for faculty and the difficulties/consequences that could occur.

OT-257. Role of the Board of Trustees and the Faculty in University Governance.

This item was created when major changes were made to the Board of Trustees this past fall. The Conference considered asking the Board to hold a shared governance session in conjunction with a Board meeting.