

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Tuesday, June 23, 2009

PLACE: Room 206, Student Center West, UIC

PRESENT: Burbules, Chambers, Chapman-Novakofski, Eisenhart (Vice Chair), Gillet, Kaufman (Chair), Mallory, Massat, O'Brien, Schacht, Strom, Tolliver, Weech

ABSENT: Finnerty, Fisher, Jones, Koronkowski, Wheeler, Wood

GUESTS: Roy Campbell, Shahrbanoo Fadavi, Walter Knorr, Philip Patston, Mrinalini Rao, Niranjana Shah, Tih-Fen Ting, Joseph White

Professor Elliot Kaufman, Chair, called the University Senates Conference to order at 10:00 a.m. He introduced the newly-elected members in attendance, Roy Campbell, Shahrbanoo Fadavi, Philip Patston, and Tih-Fen Ting.

I. Executive Session

President White reviewed the events over the previous four weeks stemming from the *Chicago Tribune's* articles on U of I admissions. He planned for the University to conduct a self-evaluation on the admissions process, including the Category I system, until Governor Quinn announced his plan to create an independent commission to investigate the claims that preferential treatment had been given to some applicants. The commission, headed by former federal Judge Abner Mikva, is to report to the Governor by August 6. The President said that the commission has begun conducting interviews.

President White said that Mike Bass is chairing the search committee to find a replacement for Rick Schoell, Executive Director of Governmental Relations. There are thirty candidates and the Board of Trustees would like to choose from three or four finalists.

President White said that faculty will be the last group of employees to test a pilot program for timekeeping. He noted that the University is currently in violation of state requirements for time reporting. Conference members raised concerns about a process that might be onerous, who has access to the information, and what counts as work time.

Vice President Rao reported that she sent the proposed statutory changes in USC item ST-66 to Legal Counsel for review. She was advised that the *Statutes* should be reviewed in a larger context in regards to the term "unit" and the explanation of tenure home. Professor

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of August 25, 2009

Kaufman explained that the proposed changes are an attempt to clarify two major issues and requested that the proposal move forward and further review of the *Statutes* can be done at a later time. Vice President Rao said that she would consult with Bill Maher.

Vice President Rao provided an update on the interim furlough policy that would permit language to be written into Notifications of Appointments (NOAs) allowing for unpaid furlough days. NOAs would also include additional language that would provide provisions for positions funded on grants and contracts. Vice President Rao said that SURS benefits for those retiring within the next four years could be affected if furlough days are enacted. Conference members found this unacceptable. There were also concerns that those on 9-month appointments would suffer more of a penalty if they were subject to the same number of furlough days as those on 12-month appointments.

Vice President Rao said that most of the changes in the Policy on Academic Integrity in Research and Publication are the result of changes in federal guidelines. She plans to complete additional revisions soon and will keep the Conference informed.

Vice President Rao told the Conference that Vice President Ghosh had taken the proposed revisions to *The General Rules* concerning courseware ownership to the technology committee of the Board of Trustees.

Vice President Rao acknowledged that entrepreneurial faculty who develop spin-off companies and achieve the title of director do not qualify for sabbaticals. This issue needs to be addressed as well as recognizing technology creation activities in promotion and tenure criteria.

Responding to a question from the Conference in regards to the academic program review process and if the process should evaluate whether a program will affect another campus, Vice President Rao said that there needs to be better dialogue rather than another step in the process. She suggested further discussion at the next meeting.

Vice President Rao commented on efforts to make Conflicts of Commitment and Interest data available electronically and to provide training for unit heads and faculty.

Vice President Knorr provided an update on the budget. The state's budget does not look good and the University has not received all of its funding from the state for the fiscal year. A capital bill has not been approved. The FY10 budget currently calls for a \$7.8M increase from the state. A proposal for a 4% tuition increase will go to the Board of Trustees for approval.

II. Guest

Trustee Niranjan Shah met with the University Senates Conference during lunch. Professor Kaufman described faculty presentations that used to be given during Board meetings and asked Trustee Shah if he thought the Board might be interested in reinstating the practice. Trustee Shah thought the presentations were an excellent idea.

Trustee Shah commented that Board members spend a lot of time fulfilling their responsibilities as members of the Board.

Professor Kaufman discussed the Senates Conference's previous proposal to have faculty seated at the Board table with voice but not vote. The original recommendation suggested that either the USC chair and vice chair or the senate chairs be allowed to sit at the table with the trustees and university officers. Professor Kaufman commented that the Conference believes that the trustees would benefit from a faculty voice. Trustee Shah said that what the Conference is asking makes sense. However, he also indicated that the Board is limited by state statute. The Board is appointed and it is not in the Board's authority to do as such. Professor Kaufman remarked that the faculty would be there to provide advice if asked; not to debate. Trustee Shah replied that the faculty should give advice to the trustees, but not during the meeting. The faculty need to express concerns to the trustees from the Academic Affairs Committee when they meet before the Board meeting. He added that the Board is there to help the faculty.

When asked about the admissions controversy, Trustee Shah said that it has been a very difficult situation unlike any other he has seen in his professional life. He said that the University will navigate through the storm. He added that nobody has done anything wrong.

Trustee Shah was asked what kind of advice he would provide to another state university that was determining whether to have a board that was elected, appointed, or selected some other way. Trustee Shah responded that elections can cost a significant amount of money. He believes that the system for appointing members could be improved. Trustee Shah said that it is good to have board members with expertise in various areas, such as medical experience and an understanding of contracts.

Professor Chambers commented that he believes it is the responsibility of the Board to protect the University. Trustee Shah thought that was a good observation. He added that the Board members should be responsible for their actions.

Professor Kaufman thanked Trustee Shah for meeting with the Conference.

The Conference recessed from the regular meeting at 1:25 p.m. in order to hold the 2009-10 Organizational Meeting. The regular meeting resumed at 1:35 p.m.

Professor Kaufman read thank-you notes from Rick Schoell and Hope Cook, who were recognized for their service to the University at the June 3 USC meeting.

Professor Kaufman recognized members whose terms would soon be ending and thanked them for their years of service: Karen Chapman-Novakofski, Lynn Fisher, Mary Mallory, Gerald Strom, Richard Schacht, and John Wood.

Professor Chambers commented that he favored reinstating the practice of giving plaques to those whose terms are ending.

III. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of June 3, 2009

Professor Tih-Fen Ting asked if in the fourth paragraph in the section titled Guest, the date 2002 should be 2001. The error was noted. Professor Chambers moved approval of the minutes as corrected. The minutes were seconded, voted on, and approved.

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. Designation of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

Thursday, July 23, 2009, Chicago

Joseph Finnerty

VI. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

2. 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. Passed UIUC Senate 4/27/09. Transmitted to President 5/7/09.

Professor Kaufman said that he would lobby to move this item forward and then go back and do a broader review of the *Statutes*.

3. OT-251. Policy and Procedures on Academic Integrity in Research and Publication.

Professor Kaufman noted that this item was discussed with Vice President Rao during the Executive Session.

4. OT-252. Vendor Code of Conduct.

No new information.

5. OT-253. Classification of Senate Minutes.

Professor Kaufman mentioned that this item is about whether academic programs should be vetted across the campuses. He suggested that it remain on the active agenda for further discussion.

6. GR-40. Proposed Revisions to *The General Rules*, Article III (Intellectual Property), Sections 1-8, and Article V (University Property), Sections 1-3. Transmitted to Senates 7/10/06. Approved by the Board of Trustees 3/13/07. Supporting Policy Documents to Senates 4/19/07. Additional Proposed Revisions to Article III, Sections 1-4, to President White 10/9/08. Referred to University Intellectual Property Committee by Vice President Ghosh 2/13/09. Approved by USC 3/26/09.

Professor Kaufman said that this item is moving forward. Vice President Ghosh is discussing the issue of courseware ownership with members of the Board of Trustees.

Professor Schacht brought up a previous proposed change to Article V, Section 3 that the University decided not to implement. He said that University employees are continuously in violation in respect to use of university equipment. He urged the Conference to keep an eye out for an opportunity to fix the situation. He also volunteered to participate in any group that pursues changing the language in *The General Rules*. Professor Kaufman clarified that the issue concerns such activities as using the telephone for personal calls and using computers for personal email. Professor Schacht said that a simple fix would be to approve procedures to allow use of university equipment as long as it does not interfere with university functions. Professor Kaufman suggesting that a new USC item be created to look at appropriate use of university resources.

7. NC-15. Nominating Committee for 2009-10 Officers and Executive Committee.

Professor Kaufman noted that the Nominating Committee reported during the Organizational Meeting.

8. OT-227. The Global Campus.

Professor Kaufman noted that this is a campus issue now. He said that it is unknown as to how much of a central presence there will be. He commented that there are disparities among the campuses in infrastructures that provide information technology support.

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

No new information.

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

Professor Kaufman asked the subcommittees (VPAA – Nicholas Burbules, Carol Massat, Joyce Tolliver; VPTED – Donald Chambers, Karen Chapman-Novakofski, and Matthew Wheeler; VP/CFO – Joseph Finnerty) to be prepared to report at the August 25 meeting.

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

The Conference discussed possible guests to invite to future meetings.

12. Campus Updates.

Professor Ting reported that there has been a turnover in senate leadership. She also noted that 60% of UIS faculty is untenured. Professor Ting said that the UIS Senate passed a resolution calling for an investigation into the integrity of the athletics program. She was pleased to announce that UIS was voted unanimously by the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges to be one of their 25 members in 23 states. UIS is the only public liberal arts university in Illinois to be recognized by this group. Professor Kaufman reported that Mi Ja Kim had been appointed Interim Dean of the College of Nursing. He also mentioned that the campus is working on the Global Campus report. Professor Schacht commented that the admissions controversy will most likely affect the search for a new provost at UIUC.

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

No meetings were held.

14. Review of Pending Items on the Agenda Addendum.

No new information.

VII. Items Proposed for Removal from the Agenda

Professor Kaufman reviewed the items proposed for removal from the agenda. Professor O'Brien made a motion to remove the items from the agenda. Professor Tolliver mentioned that within the last year the Conference had heard reports that benefits were not equal for everyone. She suggested that item OT-185 remain on the agenda. She also thought that OT-211, Process for Selecting BoT member would be an active issue in the coming year. Professor O'Brien amended her motion so that all items would be removed except for items OT-185 and OT-211. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved.

15. ST-54. Proposed Revisions to the Statutes, Article IX, Section 10 – Nonreappointment of Academic Professional Staff. Passed UIUC Senate 3/19/01. Transmitted to Senates 5/18/01. Passed UIC Senate 9/28/01. Passed UIS Senate 11/30/01. Transmitted to the President 2/14/02.

The proposed language would extend notice of non-reappointment rights for academic professional staff whose appointments are at 50% or more FTE. This item has not moved forward due to concerns that the Board of Trustees might revisit non-reappointment rights in general and extending notice might make this group of employees less attractive in being hired.

16. OT-185. Benefits for Domestic Partners. UIUC Senate Resolution 4/23/01; UIS Senate Resolution 9/14/01. Letter of reaffirmation of USC support transmitted to the President 11/14/01. Benefits approved by the Board of Trustees 7/17/03. CMS coverage approved 7/1/06.

In May 2006, the University opted to participate in CMS coverage, beginning July 1, 2006, of health, dental, and vision benefits for same-sex domestic partners of University employees. The Conference continued to monitor the issue to determine whether benefits were equal for some time afterwards.

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

In March 2005, the Conference reviewed various documents from the Association of Governing Boards concerning this topic. A USC ad hoc committee was created to examine the process for selecting Board of Trustees members and to consider whether changes should be made, but no report was issued.

18. OT-218. Proposed Guidelines for Multi-Institutional Degrees. Transmitted to Senates 11/10/05. Approved UIUC Senate 11/5/07. Policy for Consideration of Multi-Institutional Degrees transmitted to Senates 11/4/08.

The Chemical Engineering multi-institutional degree with Singapore was approved at the March Board meeting. The general policy document on multi-institutional degrees will reside in Charlie Evans' office.

19. OT-229. UA Reorganization (Restructuring of the Offices of the Vice Presidents).

The reorganization has taken place and USC reviews the offices of the vice presidents each year.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Pending USC Items
June 23, 2009

ST-54. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 10 – Nonreappointment of Academic Professional Staff. Passed UIUC Senate 3/19/01. Transmitted to Senates 5/18/01. Passed UIC Senate 9/28/01. Passed UIS Senate 11/30/01. Transmitted to President 2/14/02.

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.

OT-185. Senate Resolutions on Benefits for Domestic Partners. Passed UIUC Senate 4/23/01. Passed UIS Senate 9/14/01. Letter of reaffirmation of USC support transmitted to the President 11/14/01. Benefits approved by the Board of Trustees 7/17/03.

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

OT-210. Tuition and Fees Executive Committee.

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

OT-218. Proposed Guidelines for Multi-Institutional Degrees. Transmitted to Senates 11/10/05. Approved UIUC Senate 11/5/07. *Policy for Consideration of Multi-Institutional Degrees* transmitted to Senates 11/4/08.

OT-219. Future USC Meeting Dates.

OT-229. University Administration Reorganization.

OT-231. Shared Governance Issues.

OT-232. Interactions with Legislators.

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

OT-243. Resource Summit.

OT-244. Pro-Quest Dissertation Publishing.

OT-247. USC Budget.

OT-248. Intellectual Property Issues.

OT-249. Exit Interviews.