

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, June 25, 2020

PLACE: Videoconference

PRESENT: Brennan, Burbules, Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote (Chair), Erricolo, Fisher, Hunt, Jenkins, Kar, Razfar, Span, Stroschio, Tolliver, Vincent, Wade (Vice Chair)

ABSENT: Strahle, Zhan

GUESTS: Avijit Ghosh, Robert Jones, Timothy Killeen, William Maher, Mark Steinberg, Helga Varden, Jay Walsh, Barbara Wilson

Professor De Groote, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She thanked President Killeen and Executive Vice President Wilson for the extra time they have spent with USC.

I. Meeting with President Killeen and Executive Vice President Wilson.

President Killeen said that more details for fall would be coming out. Close attention is being given to enrollment numbers. Urbana is currently looking at a 3.5% increase. International acceptances are up 15%. UIC and UIS numbers are down for incoming freshman. Students are anxious to get back to campus. The system is working hard on safety aspects. The President welcomed comments and suggestions.

President Killeen commented that the system is actively advocating for state and federal funds. He is satisfied with the 0% budget from the state; no decrease is a victory. There will be significant CARES money being released from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Executive Vice President Wilson provided an update on the planning of the mental health summit. The system determined that more could be done to support students. She commented that faculty have regular communication with students. When there are signs, more could be done to proactively intervene. Ultimately, the system wants to support students, faculty, and staff. Right now, the focus is on student mental health during this time when anxiety is at an all-time high. Professor Hunt, who is part of the summit planning group, discussed the hard work of the group and its current task of working on a list of invitees.

President Killeen reported that he would be meeting with the police chiefs, the Director of the Police Training Institute, and the three chancellors to discuss current issues of concern, including the growing achievement gaps. The system must meet its responsibilities so people do not fall behind. This begins with kindergarten and below. The system is continuing its distinguished faculty hiring program.

Dr. Walsh discussed SHIELD, which is a program that grew from the faculty and includes many departments. A group of faculty recognized that people who are asymptomatic can spread the virus. This requires a different approach to testing. The saliva-based test is easy to

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of August 27, 2020

administer and provides quick results. This along with contract tracing can identify cases quickly. Those being tested can use a specific phone app or an I-Card. All data is stored directly on the app, so the user can control the data with high privacy. A diagnostics lab has been set up in Vet Med.

President Killeen said that Urbana plans to do 10,000 tests per day. UIC is more challenging as the campus is not semi-contained like Urbana. He commented that the system plans to expand the rapid response testing throughout the state, as we have a moral responsibility to not only look out for ourselves. Dr. Walsh agreed with a comment that the humanities need to be included when figuring out how to move forward. Executive Vice President Wilson said that she has pulled together a group from communications to work on a health campaign.

President Killeen welcomed Vice President Ghosh to the meeting. He commented that Drs. Ghosh and Wilson have been leading the coordinating committee to the coronavirus response. The world is changing very quickly, and higher education needs to be at the table.

Vice President Ghosh said that he met with the USC Finance, Budget, and Benefits Committee to discuss the approach to considering the financial implications of the coronavirus in addition to the academic aspects. There is the immediate impact of COVID-19 on the system this year, how the state budget will be affected, and planning for FY21 which must be flexible and adaptable. There are many uncertainties between now and August. There could be enrollment challenges, particularly with international students. The group discussed ways that higher education and instruction might change to meet the needs of students.

II. Meeting with Chancellor Robert Jones

Chancellor Jones said that the UIUC Police Department has a strong tradition of community centered policing. The safety of students and employees is prioritized. He sees this continuing with the newly hired police chief. There is a very strong relationship between town and gown, including with the local police departments. The department operates in a transparent way. He noted that, while there are cameras on campus, the UIPD does not conduct surveillance. The Police Training Institutes is highly regarded in the state. All university police officers are required to go through PTI training.

Chancellor Jones commented that there is always room for improvement. He envisions a critical conversation format that should include faculty expertise, as well as the broader community. Everything is on the table for discussion. There should be a discussion of how we might subsidize the police with those who are trained in special areas.

Chancellor Jones said that the university is going to make a commitment to a call for action on racism. Many people are oblivious to whether there is racism on campus. We must do what is fundamentally right and be on the right side of history. The goal is to make a difference across the board. The university has had a great influence on the state with COVID-19; we want to do the same with racism and justice. The group discussed the campus climate and the student experience, policing, and unequal resources both on-campus and in the community.

Chancellor Jones discussed the importance of links to the community. The university is looking at ways to expand the saliva-based testing to the community, to the other two campuses, and throughout the state, especially to underserved communities.

Chancellor Jones commented that most, if not all, of the issues related to intellectual property in this new environment have been worked out.

Chancellor Jones said that different teams will be taking a deep dive to determine our call to action. Students, faculty, and staff will be engaged to make UIUC the best in class.

Professor De Groote thanked Chancellor Jones for all the important work he is doing.

III. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of May 29, 2020 and June 15, 2020

Professor Kar moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

IV. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor De Groote thanked USC members for their insights and for a tremendous and productive year. She noted the work of Professor Burbules and the Statutes and Governance Committee on all the statutory items. She appreciated the commitment to process when USC and the senates provided advice on the sexual misconduct policies. There are big challenges that will continue concerning ending systematic racism and addressing COVID-19. USC members thanked Professor De Groote for her leadership this past year.

V. USC Committee of the Whole Discussion: Follow-up Items from the morning session

Some members commented that they felt more reassured about reopening in the fall with all the technological solutions, but also cautioned that there is still a lot of anxiety and concerns. There was a question about what the level of unacceptable risk would be.

The meeting recessed at 2:05 p.m. for the Organizational Meeting and resumed at 2:55 p.m.

Professor De Groote announced that there were plaques of recognition for Professors Nicholas Burbules, Bettina Francis, and Joyce Tolliver. She thanked them for their service.

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

There was no old business for action.

VII. New Business

1. OT-369. Proposed action plan for Black Lives Matter.

USC considered a draft document provided by an *ad hoc* committee, which included Professors Brennan, Burbules, Hunt, Kar, and Razfar. Professor Kar moved to adopt the document. Professor De Groote seconded the motion. After a lengthy discussion and several revisions to the document were made, the motion was approved. USC decided to include the names of all its members on the signatory of the document, which was in the form of a letter to the President.

2. OT-370. USC Nominee to the President's Executive Leadership Program (PELP).

Professor De Groote was elected to be the USC nominee to the 2020-21 cohort of PELP.

VIII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

3. OT-326. USC Presentations to the Board of Trustees.

Professor De Groote presented her draft report to the Board for comments from USC members. The report focused on what USC has done over the past year and included some examples of the innovative ways faculty moved classes to remote teaching in the spring.

4. ST-83. Revisions to the *Statutes* – new proposed revisions and proposed revisions from ST-77 that need further discussion (B File). Sent to Executive Vice President Wilson 5/1/20.

There was no new information.

5. 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 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.

There was no new information.

6. ST-85. Proposed Revisions to the *Statute*, 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.

There was no new information.

7. 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.

There was no new information.

8. NC-26. Nominating Committee for 2020-21 Officers, Executive Committee, and USC Committees.

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of nominees during the Organizational Meeting.

9. OT-356. Discovery Partners Institute. Transmitted to Senates 2/28/19. Endorsed UIS Senate 3/22/19. UIC Senate did not pass; sent list of concerns 3/27/19. Endorsed UIUC Senate 4/22/19. Transmitted to President 5/7/19. USC Response to Recommendations for Shared Governance for the Discovery Partners Institute from the DPI Academic Governance Advisory Group 9/23/19.

There was no new information.

10. OT-363. Recognizing and Rewarding Faculty Participation in Shared Governance.

Professor De Groote said that she would work on sending letters to the unit heads of USC members that would acknowledge their work and commitment.

11. OT-364. Student Mental Health Services Summit.

Professor Hunt said that they have a committed speaker for the event. He emphasized that the September event is just the kick-off as they anticipate other forums later. The planning group was incredibly interactive and did a lot of good work. The next step is to determine the list of those who will be invited.

12. OT-365. System Policies on Sexual Misconduct.

There was no new information.

13. OT-366. Policy on Integrity in Research and Publication. Sent to USC by the Executive Vice President 3/16/20. Transmitted to Senates 4/2/20.

There was no new information.

14. OT-367. Clarification of the *General Rules* sections on intellectual property in relation to course materials. Approved by USC 5/29/20. Transmitted to Senates 6/2/20. UIC SEC response 6/10/20.

There was no new information.

15. OT-368. USC in the next academic year.

There was no new information.

16. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

The Conference discussed guests to invite to future meetings.

17. USC Observer to Board of Trustees meeting:

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Livestream

Nicholas Burbules

18. University Updates.

All three senate leaders, Professors De Groot, Fisher, and Kar, indicated that the senate executive committees would be meeting throughout the summer to work on fall planning.

19. OT-142. External Groups with USC Representatives: Enrollment Management Policy Council (Wade); President's Executive Leadership Program (Dallesasse); Vice President for Academic Affairs Faculty Advisory Committee for System Academic Affairs (Tolliver); Student Mental Health Services Summit Working Group (Hunt); Sexual Misconduct Implementation Group (Strahle, Stroschio, Tolliver); U of I System Going Forward: Excellence Amid COVID-19 Steering Committee (John Dallesasse).

There were no updates.

20. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

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

Aria Razfar, Chair
Roy Campbell, Chair
Nick Burbules, Chair

FBBC: Professor Campbell reported on the committee's meeting with Vice President Ghosh. The system is estimating a \$161M loss in revenue. However, CARES should provide \$60M, at least 50% of which will go directly to addressing student needs. Research grants are increasing. The Hospital will not need to make massive cuts. Interest rates are low, which is good for capital projects borrowing. DPI funding is going well.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.