

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Wednesday, June 28, 2017

PLACE: I Hotel and Conference Center, Urbana-Champaign

PRESENT: Burbules, DeBerry-Spence*, De Groot, Erricolo*, Francis, Graber, Johnson, Kalita, Karri, LaDu, Maher*, Miller*, Mohammadian (Vice Chair), Novak (Chair), Rao*, Villegas, Vincent, Weech, Wheeler

ABSENT: Jackson

GUESTS: James Brennan, Thomas Hardy, Timothy Killeen, Walter Knorr, Timothy Koritz, Xiaoqing Li, Aria Razfar*, Joyce Tolliver, Barbara Wilson, Julie Wurth

* Participated by phone.

Professor Novak, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She gave the floor to Professor Prasanta Kalita to discuss student food insecurity.

Professor Kalita commented that hunger on campus is becoming more prominent. Although student hunger has existed for a long time, rising college costs and changing campus demographics are linked to the acceleration of the problem. A survey in 2016 by four campus-based organizations, which included around 3,700 college students at 26 campuses and eight community colleges, found that 20-25% of the students were without consistent access to food. Of those students, 32% indicated that hunger or housing problems interfered with their education. At the UI, a small informal survey of 700 students found that about 200 of these students did not have enough to eat or knew of someone on campus who did not. Professor Kalita added that hunger can impede students' development. A working group will be looking into food security issues of students. President Killeen thanked Professor Kalita, who has organized the effort to bring the President's United to Solve Hunger Conference to the Urbana campus in March 2018. Chairman Koritz also thanked Professor Kalita and stated that communication between the Board and faculty is essential.

I. Meeting with President Killeen, Chairman Koritz, Vice President Knorr, and Vice President Wilson

Chairman Koritz reported that the May Board of Trustees meeting was preceded by a day in the capital, with trustees meeting with legislators and legislative leaders. He was able to meet with the governor. Chairman Koritz commented that many legislators have graduated from the University or have children here. The University has been building a non-partisan caucus of support. He gave credit to President Killeen for all of his efforts in Springfield, such as visits, phone calls, and testifying.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of August 25, 2017

Chairman Koritz has heard that some state employees are not going to the doctor because they are required to pay up-front, which he said flies in the face of preventative medicine. He expressed concern for other public universities in the state that are experiencing declining enrollments and therefore receiving less tuition, in addition to having to deal with decreased and late state funding. Also of concern, many high school graduates are going out of state for higher education. Illinois loses 16,000 students per year. Two-thirds of students stay in the state where they receive their bachelor's degree. Students are future tax payers. Chairman Koritz said that the University is one of the best mechanisms to help the state with its problems through economic and technological means. He commended the University departments from different backgrounds that have great collegiality and work together.

Chairman Koritz said that 80% of the students who are accepted at the University but go elsewhere cite finances as the reason. USC members reported hearing that counselors sometimes tell rural students that they will not make it at the U of I. Recruiters from out-of-state are said to tell Illinois students this as well. It was pointed out that the University's freshman retention rate is 93%, which is high, but students do not usually think in those terms. Many students attend summer programs at the University, but end up choosing somewhere else. Also mentioned was better promotion and marketing at other outside institutions, which tends to create a welcoming culture and make students feel that they are wanted. Admission and financial aid notification is often quicker at other places. Another problem mentioned was not being able to match financial aid that is given to the best and brightest.

President Killeen commented that it is important to set the context. Enrollment at the University is at an all-time high. Even so, it is important to work harder and be more competitive. The University has a strategic enrollment plan. The yield can be very sensitive and relates to marketing and competition. Vice President Wilson said that she would share a report that was made to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board. The University is out there recruiting more than most are aware. The bottom line is financial barriers. The upcoming fundraising campaign needs to include financial aid for recruitment. Vice President Wilson said that over 50% of students receive financial aid. Separating merit-based and need-based financial aid is becoming less of an issue. Middle-class students are getting squeezed out. These are often the students other state institutions go after.

Chairman Koritz asked if there is anything he could do to strengthen the bond between the faculty and the Board. The Conference expressed appreciation for being able to give regular presentations to the Board. President Killeen commented that the Board provides a lot of support for faculty interests.

President Killeen said that he was recently in Springfield and Vice President Wilson would be heading there today. The Office of Governmental Relations has a strong presence there. Everyone is advocating for a budget. The damage to the University from the budget impasse is more in the way of how it is impacting quality, excellence, reputation, morale, and the loss of talent.

President Killeen attributed the University's withstanding of the budget impasse to Vice President Knorr. While our reputation is vulnerable, we have strength due to Mr. Knorr's actions and planning. Vice President Knorr outlined three possible budget scenarios that the legislature is considering. All are positive and would provide stability and a 10% growth in MAP funding. Currently there are no plans for a capital budget. However, plans are in place in the event that capital funds would become available.

Vice President Knorr commented that what is happening with the state budget is unprecedented. He discussed his previous employment, both in the public and private sectors, which included working for the City of Chicago as CFO and comptroller of Cook County. Shortly after joining the University of Illinois, the state enacted a budget rescission. Since then, there have been many delays in payments of state appropriations to the University. Vice President Knorr started building a balance sheet to protect the University in the event of a situation like the one that is taking place. He said that many of the battles delaying a budget agreement are unrelated to the budget, such as workers' compensation, which does not affect the University as it has its own. The University's rating has been downgraded due to the financial situation of the state. Vice President Knorr said that the University has many positive aspects that help its rating, such as research and alumni support. He discussed efforts for financing capital projects.

Vice President Knorr said that it has been a great ten and a half years at the University and an honor and privilege to serve. He hoped that he was found to be transparent. He has tried to position the University to be successful and weather the storm, and he hoped that there would be a conclusion soon.

President Killeen reported that both houses passed procurement reform and the bill is on the governor's desk. The governor has indicated that he will sign the bill. He clarified that the hospital would be included in the procurement relief.

Professor Burbules thanked Vice President Knorr for resisting the temptation to spend money that others were rallying to spend because it was there. If the University had done so, its position during this difficult time would be worse. Vice President Knorr added that many people, including some in state government, did not understand how endowments work and the various restrictions on cash. When asked how the University can get out of the hole that it is in, he replied that there needs to be a multi-year plan.

President Killeen clarified that there is no serious planning of higher education restructuring at this time. There has been one meeting of an IBHE task force. The University has direct contact with IBHE regularly and will get involved with any planning that would affect the University.

Vice President Wilson commented that there was a wider call for nominations this year for the President's Executive Leadership Program (PELP). There has been a lot of interest. The program is currently every other year, but given the level of interest that might be reconsidered. It is important to keep the number low, at around twelve to fifteen participants. President Killeen was excited about the level of interest. He mentioned that Dr. Wilson was part of the program in its first year.

Vice President Wilson said that the President asked her to chair the search committee to fill Vice President Knorr's position. She asked for a nomination from USC.

The group discussed the difficulties of the City of Chicago and Chicago Public Schools. President Killeen said that UIC already has a strong program with CPS. Urbana provides some long-distance training. The University is looking at ways to go beyond what is currently being done.

The meeting recessed at 11:50 a.m. for lunch and the 2017-2018 Organizational Meeting. The regular meeting resumed at 1:50 p.m.

II. Presentation of Plaque

Professor Novak presented a plaque of appreciation to Professor Mohammadian. The Conference responded with a round of applause. Professor Novak mentioned that a plaque would be given to Professor Jackson, who was not in attendance. [Plaques were given to Professor Graber and Professor Villegas during the Organizational Meeting before they had to leave.]

III. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of May 25, 2017

Professor Rao moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. The minutes were voted on and approved by voice vote, with one typographical correction.

IV. Classification of Senate Minutes

There were no senate minutes to classify.

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

V. Old Business - Action Items

None.

VI. New Business

1. Designation of USC Observer to Board of Trustees meeting:

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Urbana

Bettina Francis

2. OT-340. Search for a Vice President/Chief Financial Officer.

Nominations were made for someone to serve on the search committee that will be chaired by Vice President Wilson. After a vote by ballot, Professor Villegas was chosen.

VII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

3. 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. Revised language approved by USC 3/18/14. Transmitted to Senates 3/21/14. Passed UIUC Senate 11/17/14. Passed UIC Senate as amended 1/29/15. Passed UIS Senate 4/10/15. Transmitted to President 5/12/15. Referred back to UIUC Senate USSP Committee in consultation with CAFT 2/23/17.

4. ST-77/GR-46. Revisions to the *Statutes* and *General Rules* – Edits and Updates. Received from the Board of Trustees Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee 10/6/14. *Statutes*: Transmitted to Senates 10/10/14. Passed UIC Senate 12/3/14. Passed UIS Senate 1/23/15. Passed UIUC Senate 5/4/15. *General Rules* transmitted to the President 12/22/14. *General Rules* (Intellectual Property) transmitted to Senates 1/26/15. Passed UIS Senate 3/6/15. Passed UIC Senate 4/23/15. Passed UIUC Senate 5/4/15. *Statutes* and *General Rules* (Intellectual Property) transmitted to the President 5/29/15.

5. ST-79. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II, Section 2.b, and 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. Revised language approved by USC 6/18/13. Transmitted to Senates 6/21/13. Passed UIC senate 9/26/13. Alternate language passed UIUC Senate 11/18/13. Transmitted to Senates 11/26/13. Passed UIS Senate 2/21/14. Passed UIC Senate 4/24/14. Transmitted to the President 6/11/14. USC new proposed revisions 4/27/17. Transmitted to Senates 5/11/17.

(Items 3-5) Professor Burbules said that the proposed statutory revisions are moving through the pipeline. There appear to be some areas where minor revisions could be made to move the proposed statutory changes forward.

6. ST-81. Revisions to University of Illinois Nondiscrimination Statement. Received from Vice President Pierre 10/9/15. Transmitted to Senates 10/12/15. Passed UIC Senate 10/28/15. Passed UIS Senate 12/11/15. Passed UIUC Senate 3/7/16. UIUC Senate version transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 3/31/16. Passed UIS Senate 4/22/16. Passed UIC Senate 9/29/16. Transmitted to Vice President Wilson 11/22/16.

This item was not discussed.

7. ST-82. Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Sections 3. (Appointments, Ranks, and Promotions of the Academic and Administrative Staff) a., and 4 (Principles Governing Employment of Academic and Administrative Staffs) b. Passed UIUC Senate 5/2/16. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 6/6/16. Passed UIS Senate 9/23/16. Passed UIC Senate 10/26/16. Transmitted to President 12/5/16.

This item was not discussed.

8. NC-23. Nominating Committee for 2017-18 Officers, Executive Committee, and USC Committees.

This item was not discussed.

9. OT-339. Audit of the University Senates Conference.

Professor Novak discussed parts of the draft summary of the audit report, which was distributed, and the process for addressing the recommendations. Professor Novak expected to have the final report soon. Professor Burbules suggested that the audit report be a part of the USC retreat.

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

Professor Novak said that she would be giving the USC annual report to the Board at the July meeting. Professors Burbules, Francis, and Rao volunteered to review the report.

11. OT-327. University Strategic Framework.

This item was not discussed.

12. OT-331. University of Illinois Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment (IPAC) – formerly 2021 Initiative.

This item was not discussed.

13. OT-338. USC Statement on Faculty/Staff Salary and Benefits. Transmitted to President and Vice President for Academic Affairs 12/7/16.

This item was not discussed.

14. OT-310. Recommendation for New Policy Language Related to Classified Research at the University of Illinois. Transmitted to Senates 6/25/14. Passed UIS Senate 9/12/14. Withdrawn UIC Senate 1/29/15. Passed UIUC SEC 4/17/15.

This item was not discussed.

15. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

This item was not discussed.

16. Designation of USC Observer to Board of Trustees meeting:

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Chicago

Meena Rao

17. Campus Updates.

There were no updates.

18. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

Academic Affairs and Research Committee	Meena Rao
Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee	Harley Johnson
Hospital and Health Affairs Committee	Mary Jo LaDu
Statutes and Governance Committee	Nicholas Burbules

SGC: Professor Burbules said that, once the current proposed changes are approved where there are no concerns, there are three areas that need additional work: 1) proposed revisions where there are some concerns, 2) very large issues, such as the definition of “faculty” and the section of the *Statutes* that address academic freedom, and 3) revisions to reflect the University of Illinois as a system with three universities.

FBBC: Professor Weech said that the committee plans to work with the three senate budget committees in the fall.

AARC: Professor Rao mentioned that a few members of the committee were invited by Vice President Wilson to participate in the testing of a new online sabbatical application process.

HHAC: Professor LaDu said Dr. Ghosh would be resigning from his position as CFO of the Hospital effective September 1. She provided updates on other searches in the College of Medicine.

19. OT-142. Updates on External Committees: Enrollment Management Policy Council (Jackson); President’s Executive Leadership Program; Vice President for Academic Affairs Faculty Advisory Committee (Burbules, DeBerry-Spence, LaDu, Mohammadian, Villegas); Vice President for Academic Affairs UA Budget Review Advisory Committee (Mohammadian, Villegas, Wheeler); Vice President for Finance Faculty Advisory Committee (DeBerry-Spence, Weech); Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee (Burbules, Miller, Villegas, Wheeler).

There were no reports.

VIII. Review of the USC standing committees and their charges and procedures.

The group discussed the reasoning for having a hospital and health affairs committee. Professor Burbules said that the committees were formed to map to the four Board committees, with the goal of eventually having some type of liaison between the committees. One thing that has changed since the committees have formed is that there is no longer a Vice President for Health Affairs. He suggested that it would be worth talking about, possibly during the retreat, if there are system-wide issues for HHAC to address.

Professor Rao said that the hospital is a big part of the University's budget. Professor Kalita noted that there is no one from the Urbana campus on the committee. Professor LaDu said that she attended the Board's committee meetings on health affairs and built relationships with the members, but the chair position has changed. Professor Tolliver suggested that this issue be discussed during the retreat, along with each committee reevaluating its purpose. Professor Wheeler was asked to be on HHAC. He accepted.

IX. Review of the current and pending USC items to determine whether to keep them on the agenda.

The Conference decided to look more closely at the pending agenda items and items where there has been little to no action for some time in the fall.

X. Adjournment

Professor Novak thanked the USC members for all of the support she received while serving as USC Chair. She commented on the good experiences she has had over the past year. Members expressed appreciation for her service and responded with a round of applause. Professor Wheeler moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Professor Burbules and approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.