MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, August 21, 2008

PLACE: Room 407 Illini Union, Urbana

PRESENT: Burbules, Chambers, Chapman-Novakofski, Eisenhart (Vice Chair), Finnerty, Gillet, Kaufman (Chair), Massat, O’Brien, Strom, Tolliver, Weech, Wheeler, Wood

ABSENT: Burton, Fisher, Jones, Koronkowski, Langley, Schacht

GUESTS: Avijit Ghosh, Mrinalini Rao, Joseph White

Professor Elliot Kaufman, Chair, called the University Senates Conference to order at 10:02 a.m.

Professor Kaufman commented on the meeting schedule, meeting guests, and the annual retreat. He also reviewed the USC confidentiality guidelines.

I. Executive Session

Professor Kaufman thanked President White for sending the goals and objectives of the vice presidents. He added that the Conference would plan to have a discussion with the President at the September meeting.

President White welcomed the Conference members back to a new school year. He said that he enjoyed meeting with families in the morning during move-in day.

President White discussed the budget. He shared the Conference’s disappointment that salary increases could not be better. Of the $50M in actual incremental revenue, $21M will go to an increase in utilities, $4M to workers’ compensation, and $4M to deferred maintenance. Very little is left for salary increases. He commented that Vice President Knorr has locked in gas purchases for FY09 at a better cost than last year and for less than was budgeted. The group briefly discussed reserve funds.

President White said that the three provosts, Vice Presidents Ghosh, Knorr and Rao, and Doug Vinzant were leading the follow-up work from the Resource Summit. Task forces are being formed to create a five-year operating plan and capital plan, review human resource policies, lead utility and energy conservation, and improve academic services. The Conference encouraged the President to include faculty in the task forces.

Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of September 23, 2008
President White reported that the Brilliant Futures Campaign has reached 64% of its goal - $143B. UIUC has reached 68% of its goal, UIS 68% of its goal, and UIC 55% of its goal. The President commented that the campaign is doing especially well with large gifts. Professor Kaufman asked how much money becomes available when the goal is reached. The President responded that annual giving is immediate. A certain percent of endowments becomes available immediately. A fair number of gifts are estate gifts.

President White discussed the Annenberg Foundation collection in UIC’s special collections library.

Vice President Rao reported that the Global Campus is putting together a newsletter. The web portal for online courses is being modified to identify Global Campus courses from other programs. Regarding the role of the Academic Council, there has been a suggestion that all programs being considered for Global Campus be given to the Academic Council for review. Professor Burbules discussed a two-year degree completion program that has been proposed. The program may use a blended approach of online and on-campus classes.

Vice President Rao commented on the energy presentation that was given to the Board of Trustees at its last meeting. Deans are being given information on how much energy their units are using. UIUC’s goal is to reduce energy consumption by 10% over the next three years. UIS is switching to high-efficiency light bulbs and replacing windows. UIC is metering buildings in order to provide information on energy consumption to its units.

Vice President Rao discussed exit interviews and surveys. She also provided an update on the status of faculty professional accounts at each campus.

II. **Guest**

Vice President Ghosh said that one challenge in his job has been that technology and economic development is a relatively new area. There is no long tradition like most administrative units. His office is raising the level of discussion on the mission of the office and the specific services it should provide. As a 21st century, land-grant institution, the University should focus on connections with the local community and the economy of the state. His operation strives to find ways to take intellectual discoveries and turn them into useful services and inventions that help lives.

Vice President Ghosh discussed the Office of Technology Management and its role with disclosures, patenting functions, starting companies, and getting discoveries to the market. Illinois Ventures has helped fifty-five companies get started. Vice President Ghosh said that one area that is challenging yet has a lot of potential is drug development. He commented that the University does a lot of great basic research, but is not so good at moving things along to the next steps. When asked what phase in drug development he envisioned, he responded pre-IMD. He added that the later stage of clinical trials is very costly. He hopes to have an infrastructure in place in the next calendar year.
Vice President Ghosh commented on company ownership and how licensing revenue is split. He said that better marketing could be done.

Vice President Ghosh said that he views the VPTED office as a faculty service office. He is creating a staff that is focused on service orientation. The office is looking at ways to accelerate and increase the number of discoveries coming out of the University. When asked about benchmarks, he responded that the office does an annual survey.

Professor Kaufman thanked Vice President Ghosh for meeting with the Conference.

III. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of June 26, 2008

The minutes were approved as written.

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

None.

V. New Business

1. Designation of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

   University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
   Thursday, September 11, 2008
   Joseph Finnerty

2. OT-245. 2008 USC Annual Retreat.

   The Conference discussed plans for the retreat, which will be held the evening of September 22 and in conjunction with the regular meeting on September 23 at Allerton House Conference Center. The group decided to not invite guests to the retreat. Rather, the Conference members will discuss particular issues that need to be addressed.

The Committee was appointed: Kathryn Eisenhart; Joseph Finnerty, chair; Michael Koronkowski, pending his acceptance to serve; Matthew Wheeler; and John Wood.

4. OT-246. Appointment of USC Members to serve on the Management Teams and other committees: Academic Affairs; External Relations; Technology and Economic Development; and University Technology.

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* Members are the USC chair, vice chair, and past chair
**Pending his approval to continue

5. Appointment of Members to Serve on the Tuition and Fees Executive Committee.

The current members will continue to serve: Kathryn Eisenhart, Barclay Jones, and John Wood. The Conference discussed the lack of consultation in the tuition process.

VI. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items


Professor Finnerty reported that he had received a few comments regarding the courseware ownership language (Article III, Sections 1-4). He said that he plans to set up a meeting with Steve Veazie in Legal Counsel to discuss the proposed amendments. The language needs to be clear that default of ownership is with the faculty. Professor Kaufman commented that the USC Statutes Committee should bring a document to the Conference. Once the Conference is an agreement, the language should go back to the senates. Professor Finnerty welcomed additional comments.
7. OT-223. Annual Review of the Vice Presidents.

USC subcommittees where set up, one for each vice president position, to take a closer look at the goals and accomplishments and seek other additional information if desired. Each group is to report to the Conference at the retreat on the evening of September 22. The subcommittees are: VPAA – Nicholas Burbules, Carol Massat, Joyce Tolliver; VPTED – Donald Chambers, Karen Chapman-Novakofski, and Matthew Wheeler; VP and CFO – Joseph Finnerty and Gerald Strom.


Professor Kaufman commented on the need for faculty to be included in the task forces.


This item was discussed with Vice President Rao during the Executive Session.

The Conference discussed a new program going through the process that deals with a biblical approach to mental health. There was concern that the program was not going through the proper procedures and that there may be a problem with the separation of church and state.

10. OT-244. Pro-Quest Dissertation Publishing.

Professor O’Brien said that the important issue is making sure everyone is educated about the dissertation deposit process and their rights when publishing. Professor Eisenhart commented that each campus needs to develop its own policy on how to inform the community. Professor Chapman-Novakofski said that there needs to be an option for the students where they do not have to include previously published research work in their dissertations if they do not want to or if they cannot get two signed releases from a publisher. She also mentioned that students used to be able to publish an abstract of their dissertations. Professor Kaufman suggested that the report from the subcommittee be sent to the senates.


Professor Kaufman said that UIS has been working with Bill Maher to work out wording changes. He mentioned that the language approved by UIS will need to go back to the other senates.

12. 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.
No new information.


No new information.


No new information.

15. OT-232. Interactions with Legislators.

Professor Kaufman said that he is working with Rick Schoell.

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

The Conference discussed possible guests to invite to future meetings.

17. Campus Updates.

Professor Burbules discussed a new trend in campus giving where donors are expecting more of a partnership in how their money is used.

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

AAMT July 11, 2008 Kaufman


The Conference decided to put ST-47 and GR-39 back on the regular agenda.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

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.

GR-39. Proposed Revisions to The General Rules, Article V, Section 4 – Naming of University Facilities and Programs. Transmitted to Senates 1/9/06. Recommendations to the President 2/27/06. Approved by the Board of Trustees 4/11/06. UIC Facility Naming Policy 2/21/07.

OT-161. Non-Tenure-Track Academic Staff Appointments.

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-210. Tuition and Fees Executive Committee.

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

OT-229. University Administration Reorganization.

OT-231. Shared Governance Issues.

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