

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, August 22, 2013

PLACE: President's House, Urbana

PRESENT: Boltuc, Campbell, Chambers (Vice Chair), Erricolo, Fadavi, Fisher, Francis, Graber, Kalita, Kay, Leff, Maher, Mallory, Miller, Mohammadian, Tolliver, Villegas (Chair), Wheeler

ABSENT: Deberry-Spence, De Groot

GUESTS: Bill Adams, Christine Des Garennes, Robert Easter

Professor Jorge Villegas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He thanked President and Mrs. Easter for hosting the meeting at the house.

I. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Villegas commented that this should be a busy year. Emerging and continuous issues include open access in publishing, reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, pensions, and campus morale issues. He added that shared governance has been robust and he attributed much of this due to open communications with the President.

II. Meeting with President Easter

President Easter commented that shared governance has been in his thoughts more than usual this past year. As he seeks input for important decisions, he hopes that the guiding principle will be to do what is in the best interest of the entire University of Illinois. As a land grant institution, what truly is our role as a public university? Clearly to provide education of quality at all levels. But there is also the role of being attentive to the needs of the State of Illinois as well as to using our resources to provide for the robust viability of the future of the country. Should the University give special bias to areas of education that could provide for areas where there are shortages, such as engineering and general practitioners in medicine? The answers to the decisions that need to be made are not always obvious, but seem well worth the time to consider.

President Easter said that the state will be contributing \$669M to the operating budget of the University in FY14. The state also contributes more than \$1 billion to cover payments on behalf for benefit costs which, combined, is a third of our \$5.6 billion budget. In addition, the state provides capital project funds.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of September 18, 2013

President Easter said that there are many decisions to be made about the University's health care enterprise. He commented that the University has the largest medical school in the country, graduating 260 physicians a year from the Chicago, Rockford, Peoria, and Urbana sites. The class is the most diverse in the country. The U of I is one of the few places in the country that has all areas of health care; such as medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, social work, and community health. He stressed the importance of developing ways for all of these areas to work together. Finding the right administrative structure to facilitate the University to be one of the preeminent medical institutions in the country is a priority. The Board had a retreat on the subject in July, Huron Consulting has provided good information, there are various meetings occurring that include the health sciences deans, and the Board hopes to have a direction mapped out by its November meeting.

President Easter outlined the four administrative structures that are being considered: 1) maintain the status quo where the Vice President for Health Affairs (VPHA) has responsibility over clinical services but is not connected administratively to academic programs; 2) maintain the status quo but add the responsibility of academic programs, so that the deans report to the VPHA; 3) have a two provost system where one provost would be over the academic programs on the east side and the other provost would be responsible for the health sciences colleges; and 4) have the medical college dean oversee the hospital. The President commented that he was leaning towards the structures described in 2 and 3, or some combination of the two. The group discussed the costs of medical education and research and the money that has been brought in by the clinical services through the medical service plan.

President Easter said that budget stability for the University is a big concern. The legislature has not come to an agreement on pension reforms. There will almost certainly be costs to the University, but the magnitude is not known. There have been minimum tuition increases for the past two years and revenue growth going forward will most likely be minimal. The President commented that declining and limited resources are a reality that cannot be ignored. Decisions must be made in the best interest of the future success of the University. He said that the service activities of the campuses are under review to determine if there are activities that are no longer useful.

Mr. Bill Adams, Special Assistant to the President and former chief financial officer for the Urbana campus, provided an update on the University Administration review. The steering team has reviewed all 17 reports and catalogued its findings and recommendations. The next step is for the President to have a conversation with the chancellors to decide which recommendations to implement. He commented that there are some significant recommendations. The process has focused on facilitating communications between UA and the campuses and finding ways to better serve the campuses. President Easter said that some reporting lines have been assessed. He added that it is important to drive decisions as low as possible. Mr. Adams expected that information would be released in a number of weeks. The Conference thanked Mr. Adams with a round of applause.

President Easter said that there has been significant progress made towards coming to an understanding with the proposed statutory language concerning academic freedom. Professor Tolliver reported that there have been some very productive conversations between the USC Statutes and Governance Committee and Peg O'Donoghue and Katherine Galvin. Her sense was that there are some ambiguous phrases that need to be ambiguous, especially in terms of proper conduct. She pointed out that all three senates had approved the proposed statutory changes. The President indicated that there may need to be another meeting.

There was a discussion concerning contract provisions for high-level administrators that can have problematic implications for the University and the campuses. There was also a discussion of succession planning. President Easter said that the University should be doing a better job of growing leaders. Members commented on mentoring programs that have taken place on the campuses.

The group also briefly discussion the length of time it is taking to work out a contract agreement with the UIC faculty union. It was pointed out that many faculty are leaving the University due to the delay, which has essentially resulted in a pay cut.

President Easter commented that it would be beneficial to him for each campus senate to have a process for reviewing the chancellors.

The group closed the session with a discussion of various issues that are affecting higher education, such as MOOCS and articulation agreements.

III. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of June 18, 2013
Approval of University Senates Conference Organizational Minutes of June 18, 2013

The minutes were approved as written.

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

IV. Old Business – Action Items

1. OT-300. USC Guidelines on Transparency, Confidentiality, and the Conduct of Business.

Professor Tolliver said that there was a revised document with track changes for discussion. She clarified that talking to the press is addressed in the third to the last paragraph. She also pointed out that the document is a set of guidelines.

Professor Miller suggested stronger wording for the recommendation to not take electronic notes in order to maintain confidentiality. Professor Tolliver pointed out that notes are not subject to FOIA, but the concern is more towards not creating a record in order to maintain confidentiality. She also mentioned that executive sessions must be audio recorded and retained for a pre-determined amount of time based on the Open Meetings Act. After discussion, Professor Tolliver made a motion to remove the word “electronic” in the Executive Session part of the document. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved. Professor Tolliver suggested changing the wording to “if Conference members do not take notes...” There were no objections.

Professor Mallory suggested adding a bullet on the first page that would specifically address the Conference’s responsibility to the senates. Professor Maher commented that the document addresses best practices, including how to disclose information, and since the Conference has the important role of being responsive to its constituents it might be best to include its responsibilities to the senates in the bullet section. Professor Mallory also mentioned the section that addressed responsibilities the Executive Committee. She was glad to see the reference to transparency and suggested that the Executive Committee seek more input in regard to appointing members to various committees, both internal and external. Professor Mallory also suggested that members be more collegial in regards to speaking allowances.

Professor Maher commented that he believes adhering to a parliamentary process is necessary for proper communication. Professor Tolliver made a motion to change “strict” to “rigid” in the paragraph that addresses parliamentary procedures. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved.

There was a discussion on the section of speaking to the press, but no changes were suggested.

Professor Mallory made a motion to add a bullet point about the Conference’s constituents. After discussion, the Conference approved adding “and elected representatives of our constituents” to the first bullet point.

Professor Maher asked about the term “President’s Cabinet”. Professor Tolliver agreed that a different term might be more appropriate. After discussion, Professor Maher suggested the term “senior administrators”. The change was approved. Professor Kalita requested that the Conference be sent a list of the senior administrators.

Professor Leff moved to approve the document as amended. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved. It was noted that the document replaces the USC Guidelines for Conduct of Business and the USC Confidentiality Guidelines.

V. New Business

2. OT-302. USC 2013 Retreat.

Professor Villegas welcomed suggestions for retreat topics. He commented that he would like to focus on long-term planning and shared governance. Professor Kalita suggested an overview presentation on the Springfield campus. Professor Chambers suggested a discussion on improving the functions of USC and a discussion of the health enterprise as it relates to the entire University. Professor Boltuc suggested the topics of financial ramifications taking into consideration the future of higher education and interactions between USC and the administration. Professor Graber suggested a 5-10 minute introduction for each campus that describes the major issues. Professor Campbell suggested a discussion of the extent to which faculty uniformly engage in self-governance. Professor Tolliver requested that there be time for the USC committees to meet to discuss their agendas and how their agendas might overlap with other committees' agendas. Professor Chambers said that the committees should also build on connections with their corresponding Board committee.

VI. 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.

Professor Tolliver said that the Statutes and Governance Committee does not see any fatal flaws in the wording of the document. She felt that it would not be justified to send it back to the senates with revisions. Professor Tolliver said that she drafted a letter to the President which summarizes the views of the group that has been working on the issue (USC Statutes and Governance Committee, Peg O'Donoghue, and Katherine Galvin). Peg O'Donoghue is making suggested revisions to the letter.

4. ST-79/OT-296. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, 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.

Professor Villegas commented that the senates are considering the proposed revisions.

5. ST-77/GR-46. Revisions to the *Statutes* and *General Rules* – Edits and Updates.

No new information.

6. OT-298. Shared Governance in a Changing Environment.

Professor Villegas deferred discussion of this topic until the retreat.

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

No new information.

8. OT-265. Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government.

No new information.

9. OT-297. Implications of the Open Meetings Act to the operations of the University Senates Conference.

No new information.

10. OT-288. Faculty/Staff Pension and Benefit Issues (formerly Resolution on Pensions/Pension Reform).

No new information.

11. OT-123. University Senates Conference guests.

Guests to invite were discussed.

12. Campus Updates.

Professor Kay said that UIC had a leadership forum the previous week. The deans met recently to talk about innovation. There was a large group of faculty protesting due to slow contract negotiations.

Professor Graber said that a UIUC task force worked over the summer to address specific areas of campus concerns. Professor Wheeler said that the UIUC SEC evaluated the chancellor.

13. Designation of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting and Faculty Report:

Already assigned (for information):

September 12, 2013 (Thursday) Urbana

Carol Leff

Faculty report:

Jorge Villegas

14. Report of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

July 25, 2013 (Thursday)

Chicago

Donald Chambers

Professor Chambers discussed the highlights of the meeting (health enterprise, budget, and campus dashboards). He mentioned that the meetings are available to watch on streaming during the meeting and on video recordings afterward the meeting. He added that Professor Burbules gave the USC annual report, which was well received. Later in the meeting, Professor Burbules was presented with a plaque of thanks from Chair Kennedy for his service as USC Chair.

15. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

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| Academic Affairs and Research Committee | Matthew Wheeler |
| Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee | Peter Boltuc |
| Hospital and Health Affairs Committee | Donald Chambers |
| Statutes and Governance Committee | Joyce Tolliver |

Professor Boltuc reported that FBBC would like to meet with faculty budget committees at the other campuses and with the vice provosts. The Committee would like to hear recommendations from USC.

Professor Chambers reported that the Board of Trustees retreat in July was very restricted, but he was pleased that the entire HHAC was invited to attend.

Professor Tolliver said that Professor Graber, when she served as Chair of the USC Nominating Committee, recommended that USC look at election procedures. She said that she would put it on the SGC agenda.

16. *Ad hoc* Committee on SB1900.

Professor Villegas said that the University would be working on creating a task force.

17. OT-301. Records and Information Management Services (RIMS).

No new information.

18. OT-142. Updates on External Committees: Common Application Consortium (Graber); Enrollment Management Policy Council (Leff); Pre- and Post-Award Research Money Policy group (Wheeler); Strategic Communications and Marketing Council (Villegas); UI Labs Task Force (Chambers); University Technology Management Team (Campbell); Vice President for Academic Affairs Faculty Advisory Committee (Chambers, Mohammadian, Villegas); Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee (Boltuc, Chambers, Wheeler).

Professor Leff (EMPC) reported on course articulation and the Common App.

Professor Tolliver said that she was asked to join the VPAA FAC.

Professors Boltuc, Chambers, and Wheeler confirmed that they would stay on the VPR FAC.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.