

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, August 23, 2012

PLACE: President's House, Urbana

PRESENT: Andersen, Boltuc (Vice Chair), Burbules (Chair), Campbell, Chambers, Erricolo, Fisher, Francis, Gibori, Graber, Leff, Mallory, Mohammadian, Struble, Tolliver, Villegas

ABSENT: Fadavi, Patston, Shanahan, Wheeler

GUESTS: Reggie Alston, Robert Easter, Christopher Kennedy, Christophe Pierre, Phyllis Wise

Professor Nicholas Burbules, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

I. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Burbules introduced President Easter, noting that he no longer carries the title of "interim president". He gave thanks to Professor Chambers for his work as USC chair the previous year, noting that shared governance had been in doubt but that due to Professor Chambers' efforts, a much better foundation for shared governance has been laid.

Professor Burbules commented that the Conference needs to establish better channels of communication. He felt it was important to bring the vice presidents to meetings on a regular basis since the group has relied primarily on the President, but there is limited time with the President. Professor Burbules said that he has been learning more about the University, such as getting a better understanding of the budget and the hospital. He discussed the Conference's efforts to restructure its subcommittees and anticipated that these subcommittees could work in parallel with the whole Conference in order to focus on specific issues, gather information, and then report back to the Conference.

Professor Burbules introduced Professor Reggie Alston, who was observing the meeting on behalf of the Chancellor's Office.

II. Remarks from the President

President Easter said that he tries to spend a couple of days a week in Chicago. He commented on the President's House, but noted that he lives in Mahomet.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of September 18, 2012

President Easter thanked the group for taking on the responsibility of being members of Senates Conference.

III. Meeting with President Easter, Chairman Kennedy, and Vice President Pierre

President Easter shared his goals for FY2013. He plans to address ambiguities in the administrative reporting structure and reduce expenditures in University Administration by 7%. He expects the Vice President of Academic Affairs to work with faculty and the appropriate administrative offices to establish procedures and criteria for the regular evaluation of programs and units. The VPAA will also implement elements of the enrollment management plan. The President would like for each campus to have a strategic vision in place with milestones for achieving that vision. He plans to work with the UI Foundation and Alumni Association to implement an effective model for institutional advancement. President Easter said that the University needs to make progress on the diversity of students, engage more minorities in the work force, and enhance diversity purchases. Another goal is to build effective relationships with Community Colleges and the City Colleges of Illinois. The President will be more engaged in fundraising and spread the view that it is a public good to have an educated workforce. He commented that the University President should be an educational leader in Illinois. President Easter said that the University needs a presence in China and India. Also, he plans to implement leadership training for key individuals and develop a process for preparing the next generation of university leaders.

Chairman Kennedy said that the most important issue for the University is strategic planning. Engaging faculty in discussions is critical. He commented that he was impressed with the effort to review programs that was led by President Easter when he was serving as the Urbana chancellor.

Vice President Pierre reviewed the changes that have taken place in his office, including the additions of Dr. Richard Wheeler as Visiting Associate Vice President and Ms. Dedra Williams as Assistant Vice President. He told the Conference that Dr. Charlie Evans would be retiring soon. Ms. Marilyn Marshall will be assuming some of his duties. Vice President Pierre said that he will be working with the IBHE.

Vice President Pierre confirmed that he would be using *The Path Forward* document to guide enrollment management issues. He commented that financial aid needs to have a big impact. Students who are given funds need to be able to succeed. The Vice President said that UIC will part of the Common Application Consortium. The Urbana campus still needs to assess whether it will join. Vice President Pierre noted that Dr. R. Wheeler would be overseeing the enrollment management initiative.

President Easter said that the legislature has not taken any action on pensions. The Governor has stated that the higher education budget will be reduced if pensions are not fixed. President Easter commented that the University continues to support the IGPA solution. The pension situation is a significant issue that affects the University's ability to

recruit and retain faculty and staff. Chairman Kennedy commented on the political and economic issues related to pension problems and retiree health care issues. President Easter said that the Tier 2 pension system put into place for new employees has caused challenges for recruiting.

Chairman Kennedy said that the best thing the state can do is fund its research institutions. Creating new knowledge will protect the state years from now. The state needs to increase its taxable assets. President Easter mentioned that 70% of new companies that have been started through Illinois Ventures have been successful and stayed in Illinois.

President Easter commented on issues that were discussed during the Board of Trustees retreat and stressed the value of engaging with the Board members. He asked Conference members to think about ways to increase engagement across the campuses. In another topic, he mentioned the idea that came up during the retreat of going beyond ACT scores and high school rank to determine admissions. The President discussed the struggle with the land-grant mission of bringing education to the masses and the desire to be an elite university. He also discussed areas across the University where centralized functions make sense.

Chairman Kennedy commented on the significant underfunding from the State of Illinois over the past four years. The general fund has almost been cut in half when taking into consideration the amount the state owes the University.

Chairman Kennedy discussed the role and importance of diversity and noted that diversity resonates on many different levels. He also discussed the need to do something for the group of people who are at the income level where there is little aid for scholarships.

Chairman Kennedy thought that the Board of Trustees retreat was useful and plans to continue having two of the six Board meetings per year include a retreat. The group discussed opportunities for synergies among the three campuses.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:10 p.m. and resumed at 1:20 p.m.

IV. Guest

Chancellor Wise indicated that this was the first time in four years that there have been permanent people in place in the Urbana-Champaign senior administration. She commented that the interim administrators did a spectacular job of navigating through challenging times.

Chancellor Wise said that the Urbana-Champaign campus needs to be more agile during these incredibly challenging times. She discussed the visioning excellence exercise that was held during a retreat which focused on what society's greatest problems over the next fifty years might be and what the University can do to help solve those problems. She then

described the process that the campus went through to become part of Coursera. Chancellor Wise commented that there are self-imposed bottlenecks that could be eliminated by the campus, such as the HR processes that were recently simplified.

The group discussed the possibility of more collaborations among the campuses. Chancellor Wise said that these relationships should start ground-level with the faculty. The President meets with the three chancellors once a month. All believe that more intercampus activity is a good idea.

Chancellor Wise said that a University-wide committee is looking at ways to improve public relations and spread the word about the good things going on at the University and its three distinct campuses.

V. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of June 19, 2012

The minutes were approved with an editorial correction.

Approval of University Senates Conference Organizational Minutes of June 19, 2012

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

VI. Old Business – Action Items

1. OT-266. Proposed revisions to the *University Senates Conference Organization and Functions* – (including proposed revisions to the subcommittee structure).

Professor Burbules commented that the main change to the document is revitalizing and revamping the subcommittees, which would map onto the four committees of the Board of Trustees. He sees the four committees helping the Conference move forward by enhancing communications in both directions.

The Conference discussed the draft document. The Conference considered membership size of the committees and determined that five was appropriate and all members should be from USC. Professor Mohammadian suggested that there be a fifth committee with the subject of research. Professor Mallory suggested that research be a part of the Academic Affairs Committee.

Professor Andersen moved adoption of the revised document. He thought that the Conference could move forward by trial and error and make additional changes later on if necessary. The motion was seconded.

Professor Leff moved to add research to the Academic Affairs Committee. The motion was seconded. After discussion, the motion to change the committee to Academic Affairs and Research Committee was approved.

A clarification was made to the statement contained in committees E-H to make it clear that the Chair or a committee member designated by the Chair should attend the corresponding Board committee meetings (as opposed to a non-committee member). The sentence "The Observer may be appointed on a recurring or rotating basis" was removed from the section regarding observers to Board of Trustees meetings.

The Conference discussed whether the Nominating Committee should be a standing committee. The Conference decided that it should not. The Conference also decided that the Executive Committee would act as the Nominating Committee for the purposes of initially nominating members to the four new committees, if the new committee structure is approved. The Executive Committee would canvas members for their preferences.

Professor Burbules called the question. The document as amended and with minor editorial corrections to be completed was approved by voice vote with one dissenting vote.

VII. New Business

2. Designation of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

September 14, 2012

Urbana

Mary Mallory

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

Professor Burbules reported that the process to revise the *Statutes*, the *General Rules*, and the Board's bylaws is still being worked out. He will be on the committee that will look at the changes. Professor Burbules said that there are two stages of involvement for faculty that are crucial: 1) making recommendations that will feed up through the process through him; and 2) the approval process after the changes are proposed to the *Statutes* and *General Rules*. He noted that the Conference does not have to be consulted on the Board bylaw changes but perhaps the Board might be willing to hear suggestions. He reminded the Conference that changes to the *Statutes* must go from USC to the senates for review; the *General Rules* do not have to go to the senates but he suggested that the senates should have the opportunity for review. Professor Burbules asked the Conference members to think about how USC should have input into the process. Professor Tolliver pointed out that the senates can propose changes to the *Statutes* at any time. She also presumed that there would be communication from USC to each senate through each senate's liaison to USC.

4. OT-289. USC 2012 Retreat.

Professor Burbules said that the retreat would be on October 15 and the next regular meeting would be on October 16. He mentioned that the UIUC SEC has a meeting the afternoon of October 15. He suggested that the retreat begin at the I Hotel at 10am and then convene at Allerton later in the afternoon for dinner and a continuation of the retreat. The regular meeting would be held at Allerton on the second day. The Conference approved the proposed schedule.

Professor Burbules suggested that the topics discussed at the Board's retreat be considered as topics for the USC retreat. He also suggested looking at the President's goals to think about which goals should be made priorities and need involvement and advice from USC. The Conference discussed other possible topics for the retreat, such as multi-year planning, improving institutional advancement, and intellectual property taxation. Professor Burbules asked that members send additional suggestions to him by email and the Executive Committee would pare them down.

VIII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

5. OT-288. Resolution on Pensions. Approved UIUC Senate 4/30/12. Approved UIC SEC 5/2/12. Approved UIS Senate 5/4/12.

Pensions were discussed with President Easter and Vice President Pierre during the morning session.

6. OT-269. Cross-Campus Dialogue (formerly Call for a University-wide Summit on Organization and Governance).

The Board of Trustees retreat was discussed with President Easter and Vice President Pierre during the morning session.

7. OT-271. University Senates Conference presentations to the Board of Trustees.

Professor Burbules offered to give the September 14 presentation to the Board. He said that he would inform the Board of the new USC committee structure and comment on the Board retreat.

8. ST-72. Consideration of the language in the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 2 (Academic Freedom). Passed UIUC Senate 12/6/10. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 2/7/11. Passed UIC Senate 9/22/11.

Professor Burbules reported that the UIUC Senate would not be reconsidering the language that it approved. Professor Fisher said that the UIS Senate has referred this item to its Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee.

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

The Conference discussed possible guests for future meetings.

10. Campus Updates.

There were no campus updates.

11. Report of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

July 18 and 19, 2012

Chicago

Kenneth Andersen

12. OT-142. Update on External Committees: Enrollment Management Policy Council; External Relations Management Team; Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee; University Technology Management Team.

Professor Burbules said that Vice President Schook recommended that Professor Chambers serve on the U of I Labs advisory committee. He said that Vice President Schook is also setting up a Pre- and Post-Award financial issues group and recommended that Professor Matt Wheeler serve. The Conference approved the appointments.

Professor Burbules reminded the Conference that the President would like a representative from USC on the Common Application Consortium Committee. Professor Graber volunteered to serve and the Conference approved her appointment.

Professor Burbules discussed the USC representation on the VPR FAC. The representative from UIS, Professor John Martin, is no longer a USC member. The Conference appointed Professor Boltuc to be the USC representative from UIS.

The Conference discussed whether there should be a formalized structure for the vice president faculty advisory committees.

13. Review of Pending Items.

No new information.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Pending USC Items
August 23, 2012

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. Letter to Ikenberry 12/10/09.

OT-223. Annual Review of the Vice Presidents.

OT-248. Intellectual Property Issues.

OT-260. University Information Security Policy.

OT-262. Accelerated Degree Program.

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

OT-268. Administrative Reorganization.

OT-276. Performance Based Funding.

OT-280. Faculty Participation in Shared Governance at University of Illinois.