

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Monday, August 25, 2014

PLACE: Videoconference: 414 AOB, 364 HAB, Hatmaker PAC

PRESENT: Burbules, Campbell, Chambers (Chair), Deberry-Spence*, De Groote, Erricolo, Fadavi, Francis, Graber, Jackson, Kalita, Li, Maher, McDermott, Miller, Mohammadian*, Tolliver (Vice Chair), Villegas, Vincent (*ex officio*)

ABSENT: LaDu, Leff,

GUESTS: Reggie Alston, Robert Easter, Christophe Pierre

*Attended by phone

Professor Donald Chambers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

I. Meeting with President Easter and Vice President Pierre

President Easter commented on the message sent by Chancellor Wise and the message for her support sent by Chairman Kennedy and the President regarding the decision not to hire Professor Salaita. Typically, human resources issues are not discussed publicly, but there was the feeling that an explanation should be sent to the academy.

President Easter said that the relationship between the Board of Trustees and the faculty needs to be strong. He felt that USC has done a reasonable job engaging with the Board and making presentation. The President said that he and the Board are always mindful that the University is a public body. However, anything should be able to be debated publicly without fear.

President Easter discussed the roles of the president of the University, which he believes are largely external. The president should be the visible spokesperson for the University and should be responsible for leading the public debate on higher education issues. There are critical decisions to be made about higher education over the next several years. While the president is ultimately responsible for what goes on in the University, there are other people in charge of the campuses. However, the chancellors should be accountable to the president, and the president accountable to the Board of Trustees. The group discussed the importance of having a strategic plan that takes into account budgetary trends in relation to determining the future of the University and what it should be doing.

President Easter said that the University plans to wait until the legal pension issues are resolved before a supplemental retirement program is considered.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of September 9, 2014

Vice President Pierre discussed the presentation that he will be giving at the meeting of the Board's Audit, Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee next week. He will then give a budget presentation to the full Board at its meeting on September 11. One of the biggest concerns in the budget is the drop in sponsored research. Also, there needs to be progress in the area of development. The University is looking at enrollment trends and finding ways to increase financial aid. President Easter said that the budget outlook could be affected by the sunset of the temporary tax increase and whether it is extended and whether the costs of pensions will be transferred to the University.

There was a discussion of the format change of the Board meetings. President Easter commented that most business gets done in specialized committee meetings. Conference members discussed the benefits of strengthening the relationship between the USC committees and the Board committees.

Vice President Pierre provided an update on the academic unit review. The first sets of data for these dashboards have been generated and include various indicators, such as demographics, teaching, research, students, expenditures, and where revenue comes from. The provosts will formulate plans and provide data to each department, which will be reviewed by the faculty. A report will be given to the Board in Spring 2015.

President Easter reported that USC ST-79 has been transmitted to Legal Counsel for review.

Responding to a question, the President said that the Conference should have representation on the ITIT committee. Professor Campbell was nominated to serve as the representative.

II. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Chambers thanked the Conference members for their confidence in him to serve as chair this year. He thanked Professor Villegas for his leadership over the past year. Professor Chambers commented that when he was chair three years ago, the Conference approved an important principle during a very contentious time; that USC works for the greater good of the University and for the greater good of each campus. He commented on some of the important issues going on. Some are more campus specific, so USC will need to understand how these issues will be relative to its charge. Professor Chambers asked Conference members to send suggestions for retreat topics.

III. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of June 18, 2014

The minutes were approved as written.

Approval of University Senates Conference Organizational Minutes of June 18, 2014

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

None.

V. New Business

1. Designation of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting and USC Report Presenter:

Thursday, November 13, 2014	Chicago	Gay Miller
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(Already assigned – for information):

Thursday, September 11, 2014	Urbana	Sally Jackson
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USC Report GPEC, Thursday, August 28, 2014		Nicholas Burbules
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2. OT-314. USC 2014 Retreat.

The Conference discussed the general plans for the retreat and meeting to be held on September 9 and 10. Professor Chambers said that the Executive Committee would develop an agenda for the retreat. He asked members to suggest topics.

3. OT-315. Proposed University Senates Conference Resolution on Avoiding Cross-Campus Conflicts.

Professor Chambers referred to the document, which was drafted by Professors Tolliver, Burbules, and Villegas. Professor Tolliver commented that the document was presented for consideration with the hope that it would help to provide a guideline for discussions that will be taking place in the upcoming months. She stated that it should be transparent that the impetus for the need for such a set of guidelines is the proposal that is being elaborated now to be presented to the Urbana campus to establish a new College of Medicine. Professor Villegas moved to approve the document. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved. Professor Burbules pointed out that the document is to be transmitted to the Board of Trustees, the president, the chancellors, and the chairs of the senates.

VI. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

4. 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.

Professor Chambers commented that the new revisions are being considered by the senates. There was no new information from the senates.

5. ST-79. 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. 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.

Professor Chambers commented that the President indicated that the proposed statutory changes have been sent to Legal Counsel for review.

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

Professor Chambers asked Professor Burbules, who is now Chair of the USC Statutes and Governance Committee, to lead the discussion. Professor Burbules noted that the process for approving changes to the *Statutes* is different from that of the *General Rules*. Statutory changes, pending the approval of ST-79, can start in only two places; by the Board or by a senate. In this case, the set of changes have come from a variety of sources, one being an ad hoc committee set up by the Board. The USC Statutes and Governance Committee, HR, Legal Counsel, and others also have proposed changes. He noted that the changes were provided in the agenda packet. After the Board receives the package of changes, the Board will send them back to USC to officially initiate the process. The senates will then need to consider the changes and report back to USC. He explained to those unfamiliar with the process that different things can happen. If all three senates agree, the proposals are sent to the Board. If there is disagreement among the senates, it is USC's role to attempt to reconcile the differences and then forward the changes to the Board with USC's advice.

Professor Burbules said that the changes tend to fall into three categories: 1) clarification of areas that are ambiguous and/or in conflict with each other, 2) needed updates due to inaccuracies, and 3) changes that reflect our actual processes and current practices. He asked the Conference to authorize him to compile the changes and send them to the Board. When they come back to USC, the USC Statutes and Governance Committee (SGC) can then recommend a process and send them to the senates. The Board would like to have the process completed by the end of the spring semester.

Professor Tolliver noted that there are four new proposed revisions from the USC SGC for consideration by the Conference today. Professor Tolliver said that Professor Maher reminded her that, during the spring semester, the SGC recommended that three articles related to specialized units not be deleted as had been proposed. The current document still reflects the deletion of these articles. Professor Burbules asked that Professors Tolliver and Maher write an explanation for keeping these articles in the *Statutes*.

Professor Burbules said that the items for approval in the packet are three specific changes to the *Statutes*, one specific change to the *General Rules*, and the approval of the overall changes to the *Statutes* and to the *General Rules*. He explained that there is no formal requirement for faculty approval to changes to the *General Rules*. However, USC should be consulted on *General Rules* changes. The Conference may want to share these changes with the senates in some way.

The Conference discussed ways to facilitate the actions of the senates by prioritizing or grouping the changes. Professor Burbules hoped to get the revisions to the Board as soon as possible so the process can officially begin. If the Board rejects any of the proposed changes, he assumes an explanation will be given.

Professor Tolliver reviewed the timeline, which had been agreed upon by the Board Office. The Board Office was to send the documents with rationales and comments to USC by August 15. Comments in the margins are to be deleted but archived for reference. The SGC then collates all of the remaining proposed revisions and prepares the study guide for the senates. Sometime between October 1st and the 15th, USC sends the proposed revisions and the grouping to the Board for consideration by the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee. The Board then formally sends the revisions to USC. USC then sends the revisions with the study guide to the senates in November, who would send its advice to USC in March. The Conference discussed whether to do the groupings/study guide now or after the revisions come back from the Board. Professor Burbules said that he would have a better idea of how to proceed after Thursday's meeting of the Board's Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee. He suggested that the USC SGC work virtually to develop a structure for the annotations that could be approved at the next USC meeting.

Professor Burbules presented the first statutory item for consideration, which deals with Article II, Section 3, Faculty Roles in Governance, which provides a definition of the faculty and the role of non-tenure-track faculty. The current language describes a unit-level determination. The changes describe the policy at campus level governance, giving tenure-track faculty the responsibility of determining the roles of non-tenure-track faculty. Professor Tolliver moved approval of the document. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved.

The next revision dealt with Article II, Section 4, Faculty Advisory Committee. Professor Burbules said that the current language says that the FAC can take up about any issue, which potentially sets up a conflict with other faculty governance processes. The FACs at UIC and UIUC have basically been grievance committees for employment matters. The changes modify the role of the FAC to include appeals and concerns with campus unit governance procedures. Professor Tolliver noted that the last paragraph should have been marked as new language. After discussion, the Conference approved the addition changing "campus units" to "campus academic or administrative units" at the end of the first sentence. Professor Chambers moved approval of the document. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved.

Professor Burbules introduced the next item on Article I, Section 3, University Officers. He said that the language requires the Board to seek advice from USC on the reappointment of the president. The current language requires the president to seek advice from USC on the reappointment of the other university officers. Professor Tolliver moved approval of the document. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved.

Professor Burbules asked Professor Maher to lead the discussion on the proposed revisions to the *General Rules*, Article VI, Section 4, University Archives. Professor Maher said that the present definition in the *General Rules* was crafted when the University was not subject to the State Records Act. The change in par. b replaces the current language with basically the language of the State Records Act. The original document included “official and final” in front of “university records.” Upon consultation with his records staff, they concluded that this concept creates the problem of new definitions and standards of what is official and final. Professor Maher clarified that laboratory data, in practice, is considered the property of the faculty. The records focus is on the conduct of University business. Professor Tolliver said that the Intellectual Property section in the *General Rules* addresses this issue. Professor Chambers called for a vote. The document was approved.

Professor Burbules said that he would fold the four changes approved by the Conference into the *Statutes* and *General Rules*. Professor Burbules summarized that: he would meet with the Board committee to find out what they want from USC and when, he will work with the USC SGC to work on the coding and annotation to prepare the materials before they are sent to the Board, the four documents approved today would be formatted appropriately, the SGC will have a set of changes compiled and annotated by the USC September or October meeting, the documents will then be sent to the Board. Professor Maher suggested that the document include line numbers. Professor Tolliver commented that the rationales that are to be submitted through the Board by other units are needed.

Professor Burbules commented that USC ST-79 and ST-72 are being dealt with separately. There is another process to look at Article IX and X of the *Statutes*, which deal with sanctions less than dismissal and potential dismissal of faculty, which is in the hands of Legal Counsel.

7. OT-304. Open Access to Research Articles.

Professor Villegas reported that the USC subcommittee has some legal questions to be addressed. He hopes to have a document to send to USC soon.

8. OT-307. Leadership Development Program (UI Succession Planning).

Professor Villegas said that the group has met at the three campuses, visited state government and Washington D.C. One important thing he has taken away from the experience has been how complex the University of Illinois is and how it has a presence in every county of the state. There are efforts to find ways to work with the Midwest area, rather than be focused only on Illinois.

9. OT-309. Presidential Search.

Professor Burbules said that the timeline is very short. The committee is still reviewing names. So far they are on schedule.

10. OT-310. Recommendation for New Policy Language Related to Classified Research at the University of Illinois. Transmitted to Senates 6/25/14.

No new information from the senates.

11. OT-313. Search for Executive Director of Governmental Relations.

Professor Villegas commented that the committee will meet in mid-September. The deadline for candidates was extended.

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

No new information.

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

Professor Burbules commented that, with Tom Farrell stepping down, the new leader of the Foundation will need to be made aware of this situation.

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

Professor Burbules urged the Conference keep before the Board how important of an issue this is to the faculty. Professor Tolliver thought the Conference should be on record as continuing to support a supplemental pension plan. She made the following motion, "The Conference continues to be concerned about the supplemental pension program." After discussion, the motion was seconded and approved.

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

No new information.

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

The Conference agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

17. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

Guests to invite were discussed.

18. Report of Observer of Board of Trustees meeting:

Thursday, July 24, 2014
USC Annual Report

Chicago

Sandy De Groot
Jorge Villegas

19. Campus Updates.

Professor Vincent reported on the activities of the SEC and senate related to the faculty concerns regarding the administrative changes that were made at UIC. Professor Villegas said that the VC for Student Affairs has left UIS. Faculty members who are pro-union will be meeting for the first time early in September. Professor Campbell said that there are two issues that will be taking up some time in the SEC and senate; a proposed College of Medicine and the non-hiring of a faculty member. These issues have indicated that there might be some missing process in the *Statutes* that could be needed to deal with certain issues that come up.

20. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

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

Gay Miller
TBD
TBD
Nicholas Burbules

HHAC: Professor Chambers commented that there will be presentations on September 3 during the Board's University Healthcare System Committee meeting concerning the proposed Urbana College of Medicine and the UIC College of Medicine.

21. 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, Tolliver, Villegas); Vice President for Academic Affairs UA Budget Review Committee (Mohammadian, Villegas, Wheeler); Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee (Boltuc, Chambers, Villegas, Wheeler).

There were no external committee updates.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.