

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Friday, August 25, 2017

PLACE: President's House, Urbana

PRESENT: Brennan, Burbules, DeBerry-Spence*, De Groote, Francis, Johnson, Karri, LaDu, Li, Miller, Novak (Vice Chair), Rao (Chair), Razfar, Tolliver, Vincent*, Weech, Wheeler

ABSENT: Erricolo, Kalita, Maher

GUESTS: Timothy Killeen, Barbara Wilson, Julie Wurth

* Participated by phone.

Professor Rao, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were made.

I. Meeting with President Killeen and Executive Vice President Wilson

President Killeen commented that the state now has a budget, and procurement reform has been approved. He felt very positive about the bi-partisan support for the budget and for the University. The FY17 budget has been fully funded and MAP funds have been received. He expressed appreciation for the advocacy and support from many groups, including the University Senates Conference. These extra efforts can now be directed towards the University's mission.

President Killeen reported that enrollments are strong. UIC has had exceptional growth. The University is committed to affordability and has had flat tuition for three years. The University is also committed to diversity and is paying close attention to minority numbers. Despite the past budget uncertainties, student needs have been a priority, with faculty playing a major role. The faculty recruitment effort will be moving forward. Employees have received pay increases.

President Killeen said that IPAC (Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment) will be amended in time for the November veto session. IPAC is the platform for articulating the University's agenda to the legislature. Pension reform, work-force development, and economic development is being worked into the document. President Killeen commented that the state can build up its tax base by retaining talent, such as in keeping students and graduates in Illinois. The President is also working with his CEO roundtable to improve business opportunities in the state. A member pointed out that there are other returns on investment besides those in the economic sphere. President Killeen said that the presidential fellows can help build on that thinking. He also noted that the metrics in IPAC are in place and can be found on the system's improved website.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of September 20, 2017

President Killeen commented on draft documents that were the result of discussions at the Board of Trustees retreat in July. Each statement was drafted by a group that included faculty, students, and administrators. Vice President Wilson welcomed feedback, but cautioned that the process should not be drowned in editing. USC members stressed the importance of having buy-in from various groups, not only the Board and administrators, in order to express shared values as an institution.

President Killeen said that the FY18 budget is a 10% cut from the last budget, which was approved in FY15. The President noted that the FY16 budget was never fully funded and resulted in a \$450M loss for the University. FY17 has been fully funded and will be the IPAC baseline. The budget allows the University to be more strategic and proactive while moving forward on all fronts. Responding to a question about the budget cut's effect on new programs, such as faculty recruitment and Triple I, Vice President Wilson said that goals might have to be adjusted depending on the reliance of state support. However, the University is committed to supporting students. The President, who was asked about a capital budget, said that the University submits a capital budget request each year. However, the state has not provided funds for a capital budget in over ten years. The University has funded some projects without state support, but is working hard to compel the state to provide a capital budget.

Each university will have a kick-off this fall for the fundraising campaign. There have been coordinated efforts for branding and marketing the campaign, which has been in the quiet phase for a while. The campaign is being coupled with the sesquicentennial. President Killeen said that alumni engagement will be kicked up a notch as well. The Alumni Association is being restructured, with the focus of engagement being at each university rather than at the central level. The University of Illinois has one of the biggest alumni bases in the world, but is low on the chart for alumni giving. There will be coordinated efforts at the system level. Members encouraged the President to include faculty in its fundraising efforts.

President Killeen said that there will be a national search to fill the CFO position left vacant by Mr. Walter Knorr's retirement. Dr. Avijit Ghosh is filling in temporarily. The group discussed the importance of providing funds for updated computer systems. Current systems will need to be replaced before long.

President Killeen commented that that Vice President Wilson will be providing leadership for the Distinguished Faculty Recruitment Program. Vice President Wilson said that the initiative is intentionally flexible to allow for different recruiting times and flexible deadlines. Search waivers could be an option. She hope that units will think of faculty who would be incredible to have here and then start recruiting them. USC members encouraged there to be visible stories for any high profile recruits.

Vice President Wilson provided an update on the system realignment process. Phase one included implementing the task force's recommendation that three functions move to each university: post award grants and contracts, purchasing other than strategic procurement, and budget functions. Most employees are still in the same physical location and budget transfers are being made. There will be two more phases rolled out. All changes are

intended to increase performance and provide cost savings. USC members encouraged administration to share the message that the university system is downsizing. A comment was made that it would be helpful to have the Offices of Technology Management at the campus level. President Killeen responded that Vice President Seidel is working on a strategic plan that could help navigate the system. He suggested that any concerns be made known to Vice President Seidel.

President Killeen said that the University needs to think about competitive pension opportunities and ways to have more control over the future of its retirement benefits. He expects there to be some cost shifts over time between the state and the University. The new tier is not good for recruiting. The University is tracking healthcare issues but does not have a direct role in the state's decision-making process.

President Killeen discussed the messages that were sent out to the University community post Charlottesville. He felt that there needed to be a strong statement on the value that is placed on diversity and that all students are welcome here. The University is working proactively to address any issues that might arise in the future and noted the enterprise risk management assessment presented to the Board in July. The President directed attention to the draft statement on system values and free expression. He welcomed advice from USC. Vice President Wilson added that the chancellors have been asked to review current policies.

Vice President Wilson said that progress is being made on the review of the *Statutes*. She expects to have documents ready in time for the Conference's next meeting. Following the overall review will be proposing new revisions to Articles IX and X, reconsidering the language on the definition of faculty, revisiting the section on academic freedom, and changing language to reflect the system language.

II. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Rao thanked Professor Novak for her service as USC Chair the past year. She also thanked the Senates Conference members for electing her to the position this year. Professor Rao commented that she views the activities of the Conference as joint efforts.

Professor Rao mentioned that USC sometimes deals with documents of a sensitive nature. However, she noted that most documents are subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

III. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of June 28, 2017

Professor Johnson moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Miller. The minutes were voted on and approved by voice vote.

Approval of University Senates Conference Organizational Minutes of June 28, 2017

Professor Novak moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Brennan. The minutes were voted on and approved by voice vote.

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. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 1-3) Professor Burbules said that some of the proposed statutory revisions have been accepted and some have not. He would like for the Conference to have time at the next meeting or at the retreat to talk about the items that have not been accepted. He noted that the proposed revisions were approved by all three senates.

Professor Burbules commented that there are parts of the *Statutes* that need additional consideration. One is incorporating language that reflects the University of Illinois as a system, and the other is defining the faculty. Currently in the *Statutes*, non-tenure-track faculty are not defined as being part of the faculty. Professor Burbules would like to see a group working together to propose a new package of changes. He suggested the USC Statutes and Governance Committee (SCG), Vice President Wilson or a representative from her office, and someone from Legal Counsel. The process would then proceed as usual by transmitting the new package to the senates for consideration.

Professor Burbules said that USC ST-79 is now in the hands of the senates. He urged the senates to take up the issue as soon as possible. Professor Johnson thought that it was important to explain to the senates the reasoning behind this proposal. Professor De Groote felt that it was important to include the members of SGC in discussions of statutory items, adding that it was difficult to move forward when there seems to be information that has not been shared with the group. Professor LaDu reiterated that point and felt that the committee chair should be representing the committee in discussions and be able to bring information back to the group. Professor Burbules responded that the proposed revisions were brought to the SGC for consideration. Professor Miller noted that the proposed change represents the only instance where one person, namely the president, is able to initiate revisions rather than a body that has collectively been convinced that a revision should be proposed. Professor Tolliver said that the president has historically proposed revisions by going through the Board. Professors Karri and Johnson both thought that the senates should understand why the proposed revision is important and understand why the president would want the change. After further discussion, the Conference decided that there needs to be an explanation for this change, including the President's perspective. Professor Tolliver moved that the USC SGC convene at the first opportunity to draft a proposed rationale to be approved by the Conference and then forwarded to each of the senates to be appended to the proposed revision to the *Statutes*, which is ST-79. Professor Miller seconded the motion. Professor Burbules was concerned with the timing of getting SGC to meet and then having the rationale come to the Conference for approval. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Professor Francis expressed concern that the new group proposed by Professor Burbules to look at new statutory revisions not pre-empt the work of USC. Professor Tolliver thought that the suggested group was only to draft language that would then come to USC for consideration and then be transmitted to the senates. Professor Rao added that it was also important for USC to review the items that were not accepted by the President and Legal Counsel and decide how the group wants to proceed.

Professor LaDu commented that it is important that those talking with higher administration think about who they are representing during the discussions; such as whether they are representing the USC or one of its committee or acting as a personal advisor. Professor Tolliver provided background information on the origination of the overall review of the *Statutes*. The Board created an ad hoc committee, which included faculty from the three campuses. Those faculty were not representing any group in an official capacity. Professor Rao felt that the USC SGC is now guiding the revisions.

4. 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.

5. 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.

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

Professor Rao provided background information on the audit. The whole field of auditing has been evolving over the last couple of decades. Standards are set by an international professional practices framework, which is issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors. She emphasized that this has been an internal audit, which does not go out of the institution. In 1999, the definition of auditing was changed to include governance practices, but it took a few years before guidelines were provided. The purpose is to help an organization improve practices. The University now includes this as part of its regular process. Professor Rao said that many people were interviewed. She added that there is a report and a management letter. The latter is only sent to USC, whereas the report is sent to the president and the president's leadership team. The report cannot be discussed without an auditor present. She hopes that some of the suggestions can be turned into actionable items at the USC retreat.

Professor Rao said that the Conference would need to go into Executive Session to discuss the audit report with the auditors. She read the section of the Open Meetings Act that gives permission to close the session. Professor Novak moved to go into executive session based on the reason read by Professor Rao. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Darla Hill, Director of University Audits, and Kevin Jones, Enterprise-wide Auditor, joined the meeting by phone at 2 p.m. Professor Miller made a motion to move out of executive session at 2:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Professor Li and approved by voice vote.

The Conference skipped to new business.

VII. New Business

7. OT-341. USC 2017 Retreat.

The Conference made a list of possible topics to discuss at its September retreat. The USC Executive Committee will review the topics and determine what to include on the agenda.

(VI. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items – continued from above)

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

Professor Rao stated that Professor Villegas was chosen by USC to participate in the search.

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

The Conference discussed various topics that could be presented. The group decided that Professor Rao would give a preview of the upcoming year, including basic information about USC and its goal.

10. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

The Conference discussed guests to invite.

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. Report of USC Observer to Board of Trustees meeting:

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Chicago

Meena Rao

Professor Rao gave an oral report and indicated that she would send a written report.

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

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Urbana

Bettina Francis

17. Campus Updates.

There were no updates.

18. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

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

There were no reports. Professor Rao mentioned that committees are electing their chairs. The group discussed how OMA affects the procedures of USC committees.

19. OT-142. Updates on External Committees: Enrollment Management Policy Council (Vacant); 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).

Professor Novak volunteered to serve on the Enrollment Management Policy Council.

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

Professor Rao recommended keeping the items on the agenda in order for committees to have the opportunity to discuss what topics they want to pursue.

IX. Adjournment

Professor Karri moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Professor LaDu and approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.