

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Tuesday, August 30, 2022

PLACE: President's House, Urbana

PRESENT: Benson, Burbules, Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote (Chair), Erricolo, Fisher, Hobbs, Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Maher, Sharma, Stroschio, Tolliver, Varden, Weuve, Wink

ABSENT: Peiravian

GUESTS: Avijit Ghosh, Timothy Killeen

Professor De Groote called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

I. Introduction of New USC Members

USC members introduced themselves.

II. President's Session: President Killeen and I EVP Ghosh

President Killeen noted that enrollment was robust and is now at a plateau. The next three years will focus on faculty recruitment, which will include recruiting 300 new faculty to replace faculty that leave or retire. President Killeen discussed the capital budget and provided updates on new construction at each university. He mentioned that System Administration would be moving from Henry Administration Building to a new building in the Urbana-Champaign Research Park. Henry will become a single point location for UIUC Student Services. The Foundation, which is currently in Harker Hall, will also be moving to the Research Park. President Killeen commented on the 3.5% salary program.

A celebration of the culmination of the philanthropic campaign will be next month. Each university reached its goal. The total campaign raised \$3.6B; \$.5B more than the original goal. A large amount of the funds raised have gone to scholarships.

President Killeen said that the U of I has the largest caucus in the Illinois Legislature. The system has long advocated for relief from many regulatory burdens from the state. This year, a main focus will be modernizing rules for civil service recruitment. The process currently takes a lot of time.

President Killeen reported that the architectural design for the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI) building is complete. He discussed activities of DPI, the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN), and other parts of the innovation agenda. The President stressed the importance of reaching the underserved and highlighting the richness of the many cultures in Chicago. He also discussed partnerships with Mexico that would bring students to the U of I.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of September 27-28, 2022

President Killeen commented on the searches to fill the positions of UIC Chancellor, Executive Vice President, and UIUC Provost. He also discussed filling the vacant CFO position.

President Killeen said that the southern half of this year's annual bus tour has been completed. All three chancellors participated in the 1,500 mile trip. Special attention was given to rural communities where there tend to be economic and health issues, educational deserts, no AP classes, and smart students who do not go to college. The members of the tour met with legislators, community leaders, and business leaders. He discussed efforts the system is making to have a presence and provide assistance in these communities. Some of this is done through IIN. The second part of the tour includes Chicago and will be coming up soon.

President Killeen said that this year's Board retreat focused on higher education systems. The guest speaker was complimentary of the U of I System. 74% of undergraduate students in the U.S. is educated by a higher education system. Other presentations included Dr. Ghosh discussing hybrid modality and non-traditional learners, Dr. Jay Walsh discussing the innovation agenda, Dr. Bob Barish discussing health care issues across the state, and Dr. Adrienne Nazon discussing messaging. President Killeen commented that the vice presidents met and discussed important issues such as environmental sustainability, inequities in society, and how the system can lead change.

The group discussed divisiveness in institutional culture.

President Killeen commented on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) component of tenure requirements at UIC and UIUC. There have been concerns with how the processes will be put into place and how this might affect academic freedom. EVP Ghosh thought that concerns could be addressed by having appropriate processes in place.

III. Instructions for Standing Committees

Committees were asked to convene at 1:00 p.m. in their designated location, which would be provided.

The meeting recessed at 12:25 p.m. for lunch and committee meetings.

IV. Standing Committee Breakout Session

V. Business Meeting Call to Order

The meeting resumed at 2:00 p.m.

VI. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor De Groote thanked USC members for their service and commented that she looks forward to a productive year.

VII. Approval of Minutes – June 29, 2022 Approval of Organizational Minutes – June 29, 2022

Professor Weuve moved to approve the minutes. The minutes of both meetings were approved by separate roll call votes.

VIII. Classification of Senate Minutes

None.

IX. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

X. Old Business - Action Items

There was no old business for action.

XI. Today's Business

1. Discussion of September BoT

Professor De Groote commented on the draft report that had been provided. She welcomed suggestions. Professor De Groote mentioned that USC would have the opportunity to present at each Board meeting. She asked that members think about possible topics.

2. Assign an observer for the next Board of Trustees meeting:

Thursday, September 22, 2022

Urbana

Celeste Weuve

3. Discussion of USC guests

Professor De Groote said that representatives from External Relations and Communications would attend the next meeting. The group discussed other guests to invite.

4. Discussion of USC Retreat

Professor De Groote reviewed a draft itinerary of the retreat schedule. The business meeting will take place in the morning of the first day. The retreat will begin after lunch. One topic will be Healthy Relations. Professor Weuve agreed to lead this discussion. Other possible topics would be discussion of the University Code of Conduct and the future of online and hybrid education. The event will end with the meeting with the President.

5. IEVP Ghosh requests USC input on University Code of Conduct

Professor De Groote said that USC feedback on the University Code of Conduct can be developed and sent after the retreat. She mentioned that USC can send the document to the senates for review if it chooses. Professor Burbules thought that USC should look at what the Code of Conduct is and what it is trying to do, adding that disciplinary actions are typically found in the *Statutes*. He added that Article IX and X in the *Statutes* talk about

dismissal of faculty and sanctions short of dismissal. The two articles are not consistent with each other. There have been efforts to revise the language. Faculty discipline, grievance, and appeal are all a part of the language. The proposed revisions will receive a lot of attention. The current process consumes too much time and units often use their own process anyway.

6. Discussion of adding “Standing Item (SI)” as file number in “Old Business”

Lori Bender, USC Office Manager, proposed that Standing Item be added as an alternate identifier to Other Topics. SI would be used for items that typically stay on the agenda. Professor Weuve suggested adding the year that each topic originates. There was clarification that the year should be coded as the academic year, which coincides with the USC year. Professor De Groote suggested that future ST, GR, and OT items include the year.

7. Discussion of university matters for information

Professor Weuve said that Chancellor Gooch is settling in. She suggested that USC ask her back again this academic year.

Professor Jenkins commented on the UIUC Provost search.

Professor Wink said that the UIC Chancellor search continues.

Members provided Covid-19 updates for their respective universities.

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

XII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

1. OT-381. Updates from Standing Committees: Academic Affairs and Research (AARC); Finance, Budget, and Benefits Committee (FBBC); Statutes and Governance Committee (SGC).

AARC: Professor Kalita was elected as chair of the committee.

FBBC: Professor Campbell was elected as chair of the committee.

SGC: Professor Burbules was elected as chair of the committee.

2. OT-142. Updates from External Groups with USC Representatives: Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee (Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, Aria Razfar); Enrollment Management Policy Council (Donald Wink); President’s Executive Leadership Program (Aria Razfar);

U of I System Going Forward: Excellence Amid COVID-19 Steering Committee (John Dallesasse); University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council (Michael Stroschio).

DPI EC: Professor Jenkins said that Professor Razfar is still Chair of the DPI Executive Committee. USC can elect two members to the DPI Executive Committee. Professor Jenkins was interested in continuing. There will be a retreat of the group on September 15 and 16. Professor Burbules moved that Professor Wink be appointed as the second USC member on the DPI Executive Committee. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

There was a question as to whether the letter from USC to the senates was sent, recommending that the senates invite members of DPI to visit.

EMPC: Professor Wink said that the committee met in July. Undergraduate numbers are trending upwards and international numbers are recovering.

PELP: Professor Weuve said that the PELP members were announced today.

3. ST-83. Revisions to the *Statutes* – new proposed revisions and proposed revisions from ST-77 that need further discussion (B File). Sent to the Executive Vice President 5/1/20. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 following ST-77) transmitted to UIS, UIC, and UIUC Senates 9/2/21. UIC Senate responded with Collated Comments 1/12/22.

Professor Burbules said that he expects there to be responses from all of the senates this academic year so that the proposal can be wrapped up and sent to the Board late spring of summer. The USC SGC will review the senate revisions. At some point SGC will meet with the group that includes the EVP, a representative from University Counsel, and a representative from System HR. Once this group completes its work, USC will review the final language. USC will decide whether to send the document to the President and, through the President, to the Board.

4. ST-84. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4 – Changes in Existing Units. Passed UIUC Senate 11/12/18. Transmitted to Senates 12/18/18. Revised UIUC Senate document 4/22/19. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 5/7/19. Passed UIS Senate 8/30/19. Passed with amendments UIC Senate 1/30/20. UIC Senate amendments transmitted to UIS and UIUC Senates 3/2/20. Passed UIS Senate 4/3/20. Passed with amendments UIUC Senate 4/27/20. Reconciled language approved by USC 5/29/20. Reconciled language to Senates 6/2/20. UIUC Senate USSP response 6/5/20. UIC SEC response 6/10/20. UIS Senate response 4/30/21. Transmitted to President 6/3/21.

5. ST-85. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 1 (Tenure of Academic Staff) (a) 6 and 7 – to permit the use of five-year appointments for non-tenure track faculty. Passed UIC Senate 4/22/20. Transmitted to UIS and UIUC Senates 5/1/20. Passed UIUC Senates 3/8/21. Passed UIS Senate 3/26/21. Transmitted to the President 4/5/21.

6. ST-86. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article III, Sections 3 and 5, and Article VI – Dean, Director, or Campus Librarian. Passed UIUC Senate 4/27/20. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 5/1/20. Passed UIC Senates 10/21/20. Passed UIS Senate 4/9/21. Transmitted to President 5/5/21.

[4-6] Professor Burbules said that these items have been completed and sent to the President. They will be folded into ST-83 when that item is completed.

7. ST-87. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article I, Sections 5 – Chancellors and Vice Presidents, Article II, Section 3a (1) – Faculty Role in Governance, and Article III, Section 1g – The University. Passed UIUC Senate 11/15/21. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 3/2/22.

8. ST-88. Proposed Revisions to the Statutes, Article IV, Section 1 – The Department, Section 2 – Department Organized with a Chair, Section 3 – Department Organized with a Head, and Section 4 – Change of Departmental Administrative Organization. Passed UIUC Senate 3/7/22. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 4/6/22.

[7-8] Professor Burbules said that these items will be considered by the senates after ST-83 has been completed.

9. OT-372. Proposal to establish a consultation process for system policies. Sent to Executive Vice President Wilson 2/3/21. Response from Executive Vice President 5/6/21. USC discussed moving forward on 6/24/21.

Professor De Groote thought that this item is on hold until there is a new EVP.

10. OT-381. EO Accountability

Professor Jenkins recalled that this item was part of the USC ten points to consider last year. Professor Fisher thought one way to look at the issue was to consider the structure between units and faculty. Professor Wink thought that USC might consider whether statutory procedures are being followed. Professor De Groote thought that there should be a venue for faculty to hold units accountable for following shared governance policies. Professor Burbules thought that problems vary depending on how each unit follows their own bylaws, which tends to vary widely. He added that there might be an alignment issue where the chancellors and provosts need to inform unit heads that the *Statutes* need to be followed.

11. OT-382. FBBC report back to USC re: tuition/cost of attendance

12. OT-383. Experiences with senate auditors

13. OT-384. Experiences with the Office of Legal Counsel

14. OT-385. FOIA concerns; External Relations and Communications as guests

[Discussion of item 11-14 were postponed.]

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.