

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Wednesday, August 31, 2016

PLACE: President's House, Urbana

PRESENT: Burbules, Francis, Graber, Jackson, Johnson, Kalita, Karri, LaDu, Miller, Mohammadian (Vice Chair)*, Novak (Chair), Rao, Vincent*, Weech, Wheeler

ABSENT: DeBerry-Spence, De Groote, Erricolo, Maher, Villegas

GUESTS: Lindsay Anderson, Michael Devocelle, Timothy Killeen, Julie Wurth

* Participated by phone

Professor Novak, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and introduced the guests in attendance: Lindsay Anderson, Executive Director of Governmental Relations; Mike Devocelle, Special Assistant to the President; and Julie Wurth, News-Gazette reporter.

I. Meeting with President Killeen

President Killeen reported that there will be presentations on the Strategic Framework at each Board of Trustees meeting this year. The first one is next week and will provide a general outline of the document. The November presentation will focus on Pillar 1 and the rollout of the strategic enrollment plans of the campuses. Each plan has a distinctive path with different emphasis. The President said that the underrepresented student body is up in numbers as well as females in Engineering. He commented that the University ranks high in terms of impact when looking at excellence and scale of the number of students.

President Killeen said that Dr. Jim Anderson is no longer a Presidential Fellow now that he is serving as Dean of the College of Education. The President discussed the future of a fellows program in his office and asked for advice. Conference members suggested possible topics that could be the focus of such appointments, such as support for the humanities, free speech and safe spaces, creating value for the University, and student safety and sexual assault. President Killeen reported that he plans to restart the President's Executive Leadership Program later this year. He plans to hold the program every other year.

President Killeen provided updates on the two vice president searches. The Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation search is being launched. The search will be external but most likely managed internally without a search firm. The scope of the position, currently titled Vice President for Research, will be reviewed. The Executive Vice President/VPAA search is internal and on track.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of September 20, 2016

President Killeen said that the University will push for full restoration of the budget. There has been continuous advocacy for the University. He invited Ms. Anderson to provide an update on budget and legislative issues.

Ms. Anderson commented that the budget continues to dominate her office's efforts. The legislature wrapped up this summer after two stop-gap funding bills were approved. The focus in Springfield is now on elections in November. After that, there will be a veto session. It appears that the legislature could possibly make big decisions on the budget during the lame duck session. There are legislators who have special ties with the University and its alumni, who continue to provide support and work on the U of I 2021 Initiative. Governmental Relations works very closely with the other public universities in the state. President Killeen commented that the public university presidents meet and coordinate efforts as well. Ms. Anderson also discussed the efforts of the federal relations part of her office.

President Killeen remarked that the University has a big economic impact on the state and could be viewed as a profit center more than a cost center. Ms. Anderson said that there is strong support for higher education, but the responses seem to be short-term.

A concern was expressed from the Conference in that tuition should not be viewed as a long-term solution to budget problems. Tuition alone cannot cover the cost of education. Concerns were also expressed about the lack of a salary program for the second year in a row. In addition, employees might be faced with higher contributions to healthcare. Faculty retention and recruitment are at risk. President Killeen said that he hopes to initiate a salary program sometime this year. There was a comment that it is more cost-effective to make employees want to stay rather than trying to keep them after they have received an outside offer. The group discussed payments on behalf made by the state for pensions and healthcare. Legislators look at all numbers, not just general revenue funds, as part of what the state pays. President Killeen said that, going forward, public universities might need to start contributing to pension payments.

Ms. Anderson said that her office has frequent interactions with the governor and his staff. Regulatory relief is a significant issue for the University and there appears to be support.

President Killeen briefly discussed the upcoming fundraising campaign. USC members discussed the importance of prioritizing funds and the value of donors hearing from the faculty.

The meeting recessed at 12:05pm for lunch, followed by USC Committee meetings.

II. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of June 22, 2016

Approval of the minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

III. Classification of Senate Minutes

None

IV. Old Business – Action Items

None

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. New Business

1. OT-337. Proposed Revisions to the Policy on Acceptance of Transfer Credit for Undergraduate Admission Purposes.

Because the policy was received the previous day, USC decided to vote to formally transmit the document to the senates at the next meeting.

2. OT-336. USC 2016 Retreat.

USC members discussed topics for the September retreat and determined leaders for each session. The sessions will include 1) Shared governance, how the senates work, and shared decision-making - the three senates chairs will lead, with Professor Karri serving as the moderator, 2) Strategic Framework moving forward and issues facing the University, consider whether USC presentation to Board can align with the framework, budget and decision-making – Professors Novak and Rao will lead, and 3) Countering challenges in Higher Education, including alternative credentialing, the changing faculty, freedom of speech and safe spaces, and student safety – Professors Karri, LaDu, and Miller.

VI. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

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

Professor Novak commented that she would be giving the report to the Board on September 8, which will provide an overview of the upcoming initiatives of USC. The Conference members provided advice.

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. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

No new information.

7. 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.

No new information

8. 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.

No new information.

9. OT-327. University Strategic Framework.

No new information.

10. OT-331. U of I 2021 Initiative.

No new information.

11. 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.

No new information.

12. OT-332. Levels of University Review.

No new information.

13. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

The Conference discussed possible future guests.

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

Thursday, September 8, 2016

Urbana

Harley Johnson

15. Campus Updates.

There were no campus updates. However, the group discussed the processes for reviewing the chancellors and the chancellors' involvement in external advisory groups.

16. 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
Sally Jackson
Jorge Villegas
Matthew Wheeler

No new information.

17. OT-142. Updates on External Committees: Enrollment Management Policy Council (Jackson); Vice President for Academic Affairs Faculty Advisory Committee (Burbules, DeBerry-Spence, 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 Miller reported on EMPC on behalf of Professor Jackson. The provosts continue to work on strategic enrollment plans.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.