

MINUTES<sup>1</sup>  
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Tuesday, September 9, 2014

PLACE: President's House, Urbana

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

ABSENT: Erricolo, LaDu, Leff, McDermott

GUESTS: Michael Devocelle, Robert Easter, Christopher Kennedy\*, Christophe Pierre

\*Attended by phone

Professor Donald Chambers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

I. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Chambers reviewed the major topics to be discussed and opened the floor for additional suggestions. The Conference briefly discussed the two College of Medicine proposals, one from UIC and one from UIUC, that were presented to the Board's University Healthcare System Committee. The group decided to ask Chairman Kennedy for an update on the status of Professor Salaita's appointment.

II. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of August 25, 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

III. Old Business – Action Items

None.

IV. New Business

None.

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<sup>1</sup>Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of October 8, 2014

#### V. 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.

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

2. 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.

Professor Chambers commented that the President told the Conference at the last meeting that the proposed statutory changes have been sent to Legal Counsel for review.

3. 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.

4. OT-307. Leadership Development Program.

Professor Deberry-Spence commented that the group has met in Springfield, Washington D.C. and Chicago. She has a very different take on administrative positions and has been intrigued by the extensive external engagement with communities as well as the focus on global engagement. Professor Villegas described some of the community engagement activities and commented that the position of president is largely externally focused.

The business meeting recessed at 11:20 a.m. when Chairman Christopher Kennedy joined the meeting by phone.

#### VI. Meeting with Chairman Kennedy

Professor Chambers welcomed Chairman Kennedy and commented on the topics for discussion. He said that the Conference members had expressed interest in discussing the issues surrounding Professor Salaita. Professor Burbules made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was voted on and approved at 11:30 a.m. The executive session ended at 12:25 a.m.

The group discussed ways to strengthen the relationship between the Board and the Senates Conference, ways to increase faculty participation in governance, the use and

meaning of a vote of no confidence, and other ways that faculty can express an opinion that is not as drastic as a vote of no confidence.

Chairman Kennedy welcomed other opportunities to meet with the Conference.

The meeting recessed at 12:40 p.m. for lunch and resumed at 2:00 p.m.

## VII. Meeting with President Easter and Vice President Pierre

President Easter commented that the University is a public enterprise created by representatives of the citizens of the state of Illinois; the legislature. The Board of Trustees takes its oversight role seriously and expects the president to execute their priorities. However, the Board appreciates that shared governance with the faculty is critical to the University. He feels that there needs to be more discussion on the appropriate levels of centralization and decentralization. The President mentioned that the Board used to have retreats with the Senates Conference many years ago and it might be useful to have them again.

President Easter said that the relationship between the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the provosts is significant in that important academic issues can be discussed that are central to all three campuses, such as enrollment expectations and the recruitment of minority students. The President added that the University needs to do a better job in recruiting African-American students. Vice President Pierre commented on offers of admission and yield numbers. The group discussed recruitment strategies, ways to increase graduation rates of minority students, programs to help students succeed, the importance of bringing in more minority faculty, and working with community colleges to bring prepared students to the University.

President Easter discussed budget issues. The University may have to take over pension costs at some point and raising tuition rates is not a good option. The University plans to wait until the legal pension issues are resolved before a supplemental retirement program is considered. The biggest problem is the Tier II program, which is for newer employees.

President Easter commented on the timing of the various searches that are underway.

The business meeting resumed at 2:40 p.m.

Following up on the discussion with the President on recruiting minority students, the Conference discussed creating a welcoming environment to minority students and determining how committed the University is to diversity.

### Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

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

Professor Burbules said that *Statutes* and *General Rules* documents containing the compiled changes have been distributed electronically and by paper. He noted that the

four items approved by USC at the last meeting are included as well as other changes that came from different sources. The next step is to get the documents to the Board of Trustees. The Board was promised the documents by late October, but it would be good to get the documents to them sooner. The Board will then officially transmit the *Statutes* to USC, and USC will send them to the senates for consideration and action. Ideally, the senates will be able to have a first reading this semester. The Board would like the documents back by the end of March. Since the *General Rules* changes are not required to go to the senates, the process should be shorter and does not have to begin as quickly. The Conference should have time to review the *Statutes* revisions both before the senates receive them and after the senates send them back. Professor Burbules mentioned that there are rationales for the changes that are more substantial. He asked for a formal motion giving him approval to send the documents to the Board. The Board will be asked to get the documents back to USC no later than late October.

Professor Tolliver reviewed the steps that had been agreed upon with the Board: 1) The Board sends the documents with all revisions and rationales to USC, which has been completed, 2) USC collates the proposed revisions and rationales and prepares grouping/study guide for the senates, 3) between October 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, USC sends the proposed revisions and grouping/study guide to the GPE Committee which sends the documents to the full Board. Professor Tolliver said that we are on Step 3, but asked about preparing the grouping/study guide which is in Step 2. Professor Burbules thought that the rationales, which are in sequence, seemed to be cleaner as opposed to pointing out items that might be controversial. Professor Miller moved to authorize Professor Burbules to transmit the documents to the Board. The motion was seconded. Professor Maher asked why the changes were coming from USC to the Board at this stage. Professor Burbules responded that USC was asked to compile all of the changes. Professor Maher said that he would like to have it noted that USC is simply completing the task of compiling the changes as directed by the Board and is directing the Chair of the USC Statutes and Governance Committee to transmit the documents back to the Board. Professor Burbules commented that the rationales are directed towards the Board. USC can decide what to send to the senates when the documents are officially transmitted to USC by the Board. The motion was voted on and approved.

6. OT-309. Presidential Search.

Professor Burbules said that the search committee will be meeting next week.

7. 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.

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

Professor Villegas commented that the committee will meet on Friday. The deadline for applications and nominations was extended.

9. OT-315. Proposed University Senates Conference Resolution on Avoiding Cross-Campus Conflicts. Transmitted 8/27/14.

Professor Chambers said that the document was well-received.

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

No new information.

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

No new information.

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

Professor Chambers noted that this item was discussed with the President.

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

No new information.

14. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

Guests to invite were discussed.

15. Designated Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

Thursday, September 11, 2014	Urbana	Sally Jackson
Thursday, November 13, 2014	Chicago	Gay Miller

16. USC Report:

Thursday, August 28, 2014	GPEC	Nicholas Burbules
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Professor Burbules discussed the different approval processes for the *Statutes* and *General Rules*. He noted that, in the *General Rules* draft document to the Board, there is a notation about considering whether the two documents should be merged.

17. Campus Updates.

Professors Campbell and Vincent indicated that the major activities on of their campuses had already been discussed. Professor Villegas said that the activities of the Chicago and Urbana campuses are being present as cause for unionization at UIS.

## 18. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

Academic Affairs and Research Committee	Gay Miller
Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee	Roy Campbell
Hospital and Health Affairs Committee	Jorge Villegas
Statutes and Governance Committee	Nicholas Burbules

Professor Chambers commented that committees would meet in the morning and report back to the Conference afterwards.

19. 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.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.