

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Tuesday, September 18, 2012

PLACE: Room 206 Student Center West, Chicago

PRESENT: Andersen, Burbules (Chair), Campbell, Chambers, Erricolo, Fadavi, Fisher, Francis, Gibori, Leff*, Mallory, Mohammadian, Patston, Shanahan, Struble, Tolliver

ABSENT: Boltuc (Vice Chair), Graber, Villegas, Wheeler

GUESTS: Benet Deberry-Spence, Robert Easter, Christopher Kennedy, Donald Langenberg, Christophe Pierre

* Attended by phone in the afternoon

Professor Nicholas Burbules, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

I. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Burbules reviewed the agenda. He announced that Chairman Kennedy would be stopping by after lunch.

II. Remarks from the President

President Easter said that he appreciated the opportunity to engage in relevant issues with the Senates Conference. He commented that the faculty were well-represented at the Board meeting last week. The President expressed his appreciation to Professors Burbules and Wheeler for their reports to the Board.

III. Meeting with President Easter and Vice President Pierre

President Easter reported that, in addition to a review of academic programs, there will be an administrative review led by Dr. Avijit Ghosh. He described a process that would look at University Administration with the goal of achieving savings, making the system more customer-responsive, and eliminating redundancies. Professor Burbules commented that there is concern on the campuses regarding administrative bloat and the need for more resources to go into academics. He suggested that the President make the campuses aware

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of October 16, 2012

of this effort. The President commented that compliance issues have resulted in increased staffing. The group discussed business processes that were supposed to save money but have actually resulted in adding staff.

President Easter said that there were no legislative updates. There may be serious reductions in the federal budget if “sequestration” goes through.

President Easter discussed the duties of the vice presidents. He said that some academic policy issues have over time migrated into the CFO office. There will be an effort to sort through what is truly financial and what affects academic programs. The group discussed whether there would be value in all of the vice presidents having a faculty advisory committee. The group also discussed other ways the faculty can advise the vice presidents. Vice President Pierre said that the membership of his Faculty Advisory Committee was almost complete.

There was a lengthy discussion of how criteria and processes would be established for academic program reviews. President Easter commented that there is a long list of programs with only five students. Vice President Pierre views the process as a continuing assessment of programs rather than full-fledged reviews. He said that there should be a series of indicators that would have an alarm system built into them. If a red flag is raised, there would be a more comprehensive review that might lead to recommendations for reforming the unit. Many of these indicators would be tied to the Dashboard indicators. Vice President Pierre said that University Administration would provide a framework of guiding principles and the campuses would be responsible for implementation. The provosts and deans would determine whether there should be further action after the initial review. The group discussed possible indicators that could be used. Vice President Pierre acknowledged that there is not a one-size-fits all. He commented that there need to be value judgments as well.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

IV. Guest

Former Chancellor Donald Langenberg, who was on campus for UIC’s thirtieth anniversary, shared stories of the past and his perspective on the important issues facing UIC, the University of Illinois, higher education, and the world today. He stressed the importance of shared governance and shared responsibility. He also discussed the need for a better medical system in this country. Dr. Langenberg shared his thoughts on the future of teaching and research in higher education.

The meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m.

V. Meeting with Chairman Kennedy

Chairman Kennedy said that the University needs to refocus itself and be more efficient in order to deal with the economic stresses that will not end soon. Each program should assess how to become great. Tuition has been covering an increasing percentage of costs.

Chairman Kennedy expressed concern with the decline in the percentage of faculty that are tenure and tenure-track. He commented on the conditions of non-tenure-track employment.

Chairman Kennedy and the Conference members discussed ways to compete for the really good students who receive multiple offers from other institutions for financial aid. The group also discussed the need for better predictors on which students will be successful at the University.

VI. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of August 23, 2012

The minutes were approved.

VII. Classification of Senate Minutes

Class I:	Matters of policy affecting one campus only. Item is sent to the President and Board of Trustees for action.
Class II:	Matters affecting more than one campus. Item is sent to Senate(s) for action, then to President and Board of Trustees. At the time of this classification, the Conference member will file with the recording secretary an accurate final copy of the Senate action.
Class III:	Amendments to the <i>University of Illinois Statutes</i> . Procedure is the same as with Class II items. At the time of reporting this classification, the Conference member will file with the recording secretary an accurate final copy of the Senate action.
Class N:	This designation requires no USC action, but alerts one or more Senates to an item of interest from the originating Senate. The "N" is preceded by and followed by a lower case letter(s); c = Chicago; s = Springfield; u = Urbana-Champaign; usc = University Senates Conference. Example: "cNs,u" means that a matter has come up in the Chicago Senate, which may be of interest to Springfield and Urbana-Champaign.

A. The following items were classified I by the University Senates Conference:

1. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, September 10, 2012

EP.13.02 Proposal to Terminate the Master of Science in General Engineering, in the Department of Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering, College of Engineering

GP.12.05 Proposal to Transfer the Beckman Institute from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

GP.12.11 Proposal to Temporarily Establish the Center for Digital Inclusion

2. University of Illinois at Springfield, September 14, 2012

R42-1 Creation and Approval of Concentrations in the BBA and a Minor in Marketing

R42-2 Modification of Procedures for Tenure Review

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

Professor Burbules moved to change the agenda around. The motion was approved.

VIII. New Business

1. OT-292. Congratulations to UIC upon its thirtieth anniversary.

The Conference approved the statement of congratulations and decided to send it to the UIC Chancellor and the UIC Senate. The Conference also agreed that Professor Chambers could share the statement at the anniversary events.

2. OT-290. Appointment of Members to the Committees of the University Senates Conference.

Professor Burbules referred to the list of nominees for membership in the four USC committees that was submitted by the Executive Committee. Professor Chambers moved approval of the membership. The membership was approved by voice vote.

Professor Burbules asked each committee to elect a chair. Each chair should then identify a meeting plan with the committee. Professor Burbules suggested topics for each committee: 1) Academic Affairs and Research Committee – academic program review process and criteria, 2) Hospital and Health Affairs Committee – the relationship of the hospital and medical center to the rest of the UIC campus, 3) Finance, Budget, and Benefits Committee – how to deal with continuing decline in state support, the virtual ceiling on tuition, and reductions in federal money, and 4) Statutes and Governance Committee – revision of the University’s governing documents, both input and final review.

The Conference discussed the different roles of the USC committees and the faculty advisory committees of the vice presidents. Professor Burbules sees the USC committees gathering information to bring back to the Conference and making recommendations.

3. OT-291. Recommendation to establish Faculty Advisory Committees for all four Vice Presidents.

(This item was discussed with President Easter and Vice President Pierre.)

4. Designation of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

November 8, 2012

Springfield

Lynn Fisher

IX. Old Business – Action Items

5. OT-289. USC 2012 Retreat.

Professor Burbules commented that he has been meeting with various administrators. He said that he has a sense of what the upcoming big issues will be and the Conference heard about some of those issues today. Professor Burbules noted that some of these issues were discussed at the Board of Trustees retreat in July. He suggested that the Executive Committee determine the final topics for the retreat, but asked for suggestions. Professor Tolliver suggested that the Conference discuss the coexistence of shared governance and collective bargaining. Professor Burbules discussed the different views on how they can and cannot work together. The group discussed how USC might be affected. Professor Burbules asked that members send additional topic ideas and the Executive Committee would determine the retreat agenda.

X. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

6. OT-288. Resolution on Pensions/Pension Reform. Approved UIUC Senate 4/30/12. Approved UIC SEC 5/2/12. Approved UIS Senate 5/4/12.

Professor Andersen mentioned resolution HJRCA0049, which some people view as undoing the constitutional requirement that the state honor its commitments on pensions. The Conference decided to look into this further.

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

Professor Burbules provided an update. The Conference discussed the process of providing input and reviewing the final proposed changes.

8. OT-266. Proposed revisions to the *University Senates Conference Organization and Functions* – (including proposed revisions to the subcommittee structure).

The Conference removed this item from the agenda.

9. OT-269. Cross-Campus Dialogue (formerly Call for a University-wide Summit on Organization and Governance).

The Conference removed this item from the agenda.

10. OT-271. University Senates Conference presentations to the Board of Trustees.

Professor Burbules commented on his September 14 report to the Board. The Conference discussed possible future topics. An ad hoc committee was formed to identify a list of potential topics for the entire Conference to consider. Professors Chambers, Fisher, and Struble agreed to serve on the committee.

11. ST-72. Consideration of the language in the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 2 (Academic Freedom). Passed UIUC Senate 12/6/10. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 2/7/11. Passed UIC Senate 9/22/11.

Professor Fisher said that the UIS Senate has referred this item to its Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee. The Committee plans to respond by the end of the semester.

12. OT-123. Discussion of University Senates Conference guests.

The Conference discussed possible guests for future meetings.

13. Campus Updates.

There were no campus updates.

14. Report of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

September 14, 2012

Urbana

Mary Mallory

15. 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; UI Labs Task Force (Chambers); University Technology Management Team (Campbell); Vice President for Academic Affairs Faculty Advisory Committee; Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee (Boltuc, Chambers, Wheeler).

Professor Leff commented on the first meeting of the Enrollment Management Policy Council.

16. Review of Pending Items.

No new information.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Pending USC Items
September 18, 2012

OT-167. Faculty Representation to the Board of Trustees. UIUC Resolution 9/27/99. UIS Resolution 11/5/99. UIC resolution 12/2/99. USC Resolution to Senates 2/3/00. Endorsed by UIS 2/18/00. Endorsed by UIC 3/9/00. Endorsed by UIUC 4/24/00. Transmitted to the President 6/30/00. Transmitted to the Board 7/6/00. Letter from Trustee Eppley institutionalizing process for meetings with Chair of BoT Academic Affairs Committee and senate observers 12/1/04. Letter to Ikenberry 12/10/09.

OT-223. Annual Review of the Vice Presidents.

OT-248. Intellectual Property Issues.

OT-260. University Information Security Policy.

OT-262. Accelerated Degree Program.

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

OT-268. Administrative Reorganization.

OT-276. Performance Based Funding.

OT-280. Faculty Participation in Shared Governance at University of Illinois.