

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Monday, September 21, 2015

PLACE: Innovation Room, I Hotel and Conference Center, Champaign

PRESENT: Burbules (Chair), Deberry-Spence, De Groote, Erricolo, Francis, Graber, Jackson, Johnson, Kalita, LaDu, Miller, Novak, Rao, Vincent, Weech, Wheeler

ABSENT: Boltuc, Maher, Mohammadian, Villegas (Vice Chair)

GUESTS: Timothy Killeen, Christophe Pierre

Professor Nicholas Burbules, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

I. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Burbules briefly reviewed the day's agenda.

II. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of August 26, 2015

The minutes were approved as written.

III. 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

IV. Old Business – Action Items

None.

V. New Business

1. Designation of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

Thursday, November 12, 2015

Chicago

Meena Rao

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of November 6, 2015

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

The Conference members discussed future presentations to be given to the Board of Trustees. Professor Burbules reported that the Executive Committee recommended Professor Jackson, Chair of the Finance, Budget, and Benefits Committee, or one of her designees give the report due to the budget circumstances. Some members thought November would be too early, since nothing may happen with the budget between now and then. Others did not want to miss the opportunity to have a say about the budget. Professor Burbules suggested that a report on the consequences of not having a budget could be given in November and then a report giving a reaction to the budget when it is approved could be given later. Conference members discussed ways to give greater visibility to the consequences of not having a state budget. There are many ripple effects that are not always obvious. Other possible topics for Board presentations included background checks and regulatory burdens, both external and internal. The latter topic could include a presentation on running a large research project and the constraints that faculty have to endure. The Conference decided that someone from the Finance, Budget and Benefits would give the report on November 12 on the consequences of the budget and the uncertainties for faculty, the impact on students, and the impact on outreach. The January 21 report will tentatively be a presentation on dealing with state, federal, and internal regulatory burdens and how these burdens interfere with managing large research projects.

3. OT-327. University Strategic Planning.

Professor Burbules commented that various strategic planning themes would be discussed throughout the retreat.

VI. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

4. OT-324. Policy on Criminal Background Checks.

Professor Burbules reported that the UIUC Senate would be voting in the afternoon on a resolution to delay implementation of background checks. Conference members commented that the changes proposed at the last USC meeting, with the exception of punctuation changes, were not reflected in the document approved by the Board. The group felt it was important for the senates to continue to be a part of the discussions. It was suggested that the policy document should include a statement that University Administration will have an ongoing process for evaluating the contractor and for determining whether background checks are influencing the hiring process in negative ways. The Conference decided to bring up the issue of background checks for discussion with the President.

5. 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.

No new information.

6. 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.

Professor Burbules reported that the oversight of the *Statutes* and *General Rules* revision process has been handed over to Vice President Pierre. The current thinking is to hold up all revisions that have been forwarded to the Board until the review of Articles IX and X of the *Statutes* has been completed and any other proposed revisions that might come about due to the strategic planning process. Professor Burbules has encouraged those involved to go ahead and send the current proposed revisions to the Board for approval and then deal with the other revisions separately. He asked the USC Statutes and Governance Committee to monitor the process of the current proposed revisions, look into the new revisions to Articles IX and X, and consider issuing guidelines that might regularize the statutory approval process.

7. 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.

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

Professor Burbules commented that the Vice President for Research would be reviewed this year. He asked the USC Academic Affairs and Research Committee to initiate the review.

9. OT-304. Open Access to Research Articles. Transmitted to Senates 10/21/14.

Professor Burbules noted that the senates have been asked to respond by October 1. The UIUC Senate Library Committee will be issuing a report soon. The UIC Senate should have a report later in October.

The business meeting recessed at 10:30 a.m. in order to meet with President Killeen and Vice President Pierre.

VII. Meeting with President Killeen and Vice President Pierre

President Killeen discussed the budget impasse that has resulted in the University not receiving an FY16 state budget. Higher education is in the 10% of state agencies, which includes human services, that are not receiving state funding. He stressed the need to articulate the importance of higher education to the state. The University contributes to the state and its economy in many ways. The President said that the higher education public institutions will be sending a letter to state government that voices concerns. Conference members discussed the ripple effects from the lack of a state budget. Even though the University is managing, the budget impasse is not cost-free. People that the University serves are also affected. Vice President Pierre said that the University has not received the \$60M of Monetary Awards Program (MAP) funding due from the state.

President Killeen said that there are many new faculty hires on the campuses. The new fundraising campaign is in the dark phase. There are efforts to align the Foundation and the Alumni Association in ways to be more productive in raising funds and energizing alumni. The President commented that the University strategic planning process is underway. The process should address how the University and campuses should be designed to function within the system. There is a lot of potential for intercampus collaboration. The group discussed ways to encourage cross-discipline collaborations and develop centers of excellence. The University should have distinctive goals and be a problem-solver in areas such as sustainability, food security, and migration. Civic engagement should be another priority. The President said that part of the strategic planning process will include determining the right branding for the University and three campuses.

President Killeen and Vice President Pierre provided an update on the implementation of the University Administration (UA) Review. A small number of items are still being considered and additional structural changes may be necessary. UA needs to provide good customer service to the campuses. There are areas where it is cost-effective to have coordinated efforts serving all three campuses. The units within UA are now under a budget review process that was absent in the past.

Professor Burbules said that he appreciated the comments at the last Board meeting that were made by President Killeen and Trustee Fitzgerald indicating that the background check policy is still a work in progress. He expressed concern that the feedback that USC gave to UA Human Resources at the last meeting was not reflected in the document approved by the Board. President Killeen acknowledged that there was a communication problem. He said that most concerns are addressable. The most important aspect to him is the safety of students and employees. The President said that he has asked Vice President Pierre to put together an *ad hoc* committee to take another look at the policy. Conference members discussed some of the concerns with the policy and made suggestions for moving forward.

(After recessing for lunch at 12:10 p.m., the business meeting resumed at 1:07 p.m.)

Old Business – Information and Discussion Items (continued)

(4.) OT-324. Policy on Criminal Background Checks.

The Conference returned to the issue of background checks and discussed how to proceed. The group decided to create an *ad hoc* committee to coordinate feedback from the senates and create a track-changes policy document with proposed revisions. Professor Burbules asked Professor Miller if she would lead the group and she agreed. Professors Johnson, LaDu, and Vincent agreed to be on the committee. Professor Johnson suggested that the *ad hoc* committee coordinate with Vice President Pierre's group.

10. OT-307. President's Executive Leadership Program.

Professor Miller reported that the third meeting of the group will be on the Urbana campus. The first meeting was held on the Springfield campus and the second in Washington, D.C. In D.C., the group met with NSF and NIH leadership and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to discuss funding, being part of the national agenda, and raising our profile in terms of what we do.

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.

Professor Vincent said that the policy went through committee and then onto the full senate. On the senate floor, it was determined that there were too many unanswered questions. Vice President Schook was asked to provide additional information. Professor Miller said that the SEC reviewed the policy last spring and recommended that the OVCR form a committee to develop a campus policy. Professor Wheeler said that the VPR Office would like to set up an office to coordinate classified research. The group then discussed Vice President Pierre's UA Budget Review Advisory Committee and implementation of the UA Review.

12. OT-320. Salary increments and campus budgeting priorities.

Professor Burbules commented that salary increases have been handled in different ways in different years. There have been processes that allow greater latitude among the campuses when determining salary increases. Last year's USC budget committee had planned to look into this issue. Professor Jackson, chair of this year's committee, said that she would determine the status and pursue it from there.

13. OT-323. USC Statement on Budget Planning and Reform. Transmitted to President Easter, President-elect Killeen, and Chairman McMillan 4/27/15.

Professor Burbules commented that the USC statement on the budget encourages the implementation of the reforms suggested in the UA Review. The group also discussed some of the reasons for having centralized and decentralized functions.

14. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

The Conference discussed possible future guests.

15. Campus Updates.

There were no campus updates.

16. Reports of Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

Thursday, September 10, 2015
USC Report

Urbana

Gay Miller
Nicholas Burbules

17. 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

There were no reports.

18. OT-142. Updates on External Committees: Enrollment Management Policy Council; UI Labs Task Force (Chambers); Vice President for Academic Affairs Faculty Advisory Committee (Burbules, Mohammadian, Villegas); Vice President for Academic Affairs UA Budget Review Advisory Committee (Mohammadian, Villegas, Wheeler); Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee (Boltuc, Villegas, Wheeler).

There were no updates.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.