

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Wednesday, October 8, 2014

PLACE: 509 Student Center East, Chicago

PRESENT: Burbules*, Chambers (Chair), De Groote, Fadavi, Graber, Jackson*, LaDu, Leff, Li, McDermott, Miller, Tolliver (Vice Chair), Villegas*, Vincent (*ex officio*)

ABSENT: Campbell, Deberry-Spence, Erricolo, Francis, Kalita, Maher, Mohammadian

GUESTS: Robert Easter, Susan Kies, Christophe Pierre

*Attended by phone

Professor Donald Chambers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

I. Old Business – Action Items

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

Professor Burbules commented that the Board of Trustees began the process of revising the *Statutes* and *General Rules* in August 2012. Having been some time since the governing documents had been reviewed, there was the need to update processes and legal requirements that were out of date or written unclearly. The Board created a task force, of which Professor Burbules was a member. The membership changed over the two years during the process. Some sections were outsourced to various offices, such as Human Resources and Legal Counsel, so the revisions came from many different sources.

Professor Burbules and others compiled all of the proposed changes into one document. This version was sent to the Board's Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee (GPEC), which made some minor changes. Final approval from the GPEC's Chair, Pam Strobel, came on Monday along with a formal charge to USC. While the final version was not transmitted to USC until Monday, it is not much different from the draft versions that have been circulated and vetted among various groups over the past few months. The charge from the Board asks for a recommendation from USC by GPEC's February 26 meeting. He noted that USC meets on February 25.

The *Statutes* require USC to transmit proposed statutory changes to the senates. Professor Burbules said that the USC Statutes and Governance Committee (SGC) would meet at noon to discuss the final version of the proposed statutory changes and presumably recommend that USC transmit the final version to the senates. He noted that USC or the USC SGC can attach comments when the document is transmitted. He recommended that the senates be asked to respond to USC by February 20.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of December 12, 2014

Professor Chambers thanked Professor Burbules and SGC for the efforts to get this done in a timely manner, which will increase our credibility with the Board. He mentioned that this is an initiative of the Board and the Board has ultimate authority over the *Statutes*.

In response to a question from Professor McDermott, Professor Burbules said that almost all of the rationales would be retained in the document that is sent to the senates.

Professor Burbules commented that changes to the *General Rules* do not have to go through the senates. The process includes the Board and the President with the advice of USC. He hoped that USC could discuss these changes with the President at the December meeting.

Professor Tolliver asked if the Board accepted the changes that had been recommended by USC in early September. Professor Burbules responded that there had been a few issues of concern. A couple of changes were incorporated and the others will be dealt with separately by other working groups or by Legal Counsel. Professor Chambers asked if changes had been made so that appointments are made before faculty members begin working. Professor Burbules said that the *Statutes* indicate that the Board has final authority over appointments, but do not specify when this is done. He commented that this should have been fixed years ago. He added that Articles IX and X will most likely be reviewed at another time.

Professor Tolliver noted that all of the changes USC sent forward in August were reflected in the current document, including the recommendation to not delete certain sections. She asked about Article IX, Section 3, f, which partially addresses the issue of appointments being approved prior to the beginning date of employment. Professor Burbules said that the language could be changed to include all appointments, not just those over a certain salary level. Professor Chambers commented that the document would have to be continually revised when the market changes if a specific dollar amount is included.

The group discussed the section on the Faculty Advisory Committee. Professor Miller commented that the language allows a senate to override a unit's decision, such as whether to have only tenure-track faculty on the senate. Professor Burbules said that the senates should have jurisdiction over who is eligible to serve in the senate. But then the units can decide who can vote and who to elect as their representatives. The Conference decided that it would be best to let the senates review the language.

II. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Chambers commented that Dr. Susan Kies, Secretary of the University and Secretary of the Board of Trustees, would be joining the meeting to discuss the functions of her office and to suggest ways to continue to build the relationship between the Board and the Senates Conference.

Professor Chambers said that a number of current and future issues will find members on different sides of the table. He said that disagreement is fine as long as it is not with malevolence.

III. Meeting with Dr. Susan Kies

Professor Chambers welcomed Dr. Kies to the meeting. He commented that she was an associate dean in the College of Medicine for eighteen years.

Dr. Kies said that she was honored to address this esteemed body and thanked the group for adding her to its busy agenda. She planned to talk about what she does and how she serves the Board of Trustees and the president, and perhaps the group could dialogue about ways to increase the Conference's access to the Board. She commented that the Board is interested in understanding the needs of the faculty and wants to share information with the faculty as well.

Dr. Kies described her primary duty as being a communicator. She makes certain that the vast amount of correspondence received is acknowledged, forwarded to the appropriate responder, kept on record, and made available to the Board. A portal for the Board provides electronic access to all of the information the Board would need regarding meetings and committee meetings, correspondence, and any other issues of interest. This has been a big cost savings since materials do not need to be copied and mailed. In addition, the Board's website has been restructured and there is a digital filing system.

Dr. Kies is providing support for the presidential search. There are several other big issues going on right now. She works closely with Tom Hardy, Executive Director of University Relations, Tom Bearrows, University Counsel, and Walter Knorr, Chief Financial Officer.

Dr. Kies is responsible for the files, transactions, and contracts. She provides support to the committees, oversees meeting arrangements, monitors numbers for quorum, is responsible for the minutes, and ensures that the Board is in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Dr. Kies reviewed the major cyclical tasks.

Dr. Kies said that some of the trustees' terms will be ending on January 19. The Governor should be making appointments around that time. Dr. Kies commented that the trustees are very good, work hard, and bring different perspectives to the forum. She works closely with the trustees and gets questions from them every day.

Dr. Kies said she is an alumnus of the University, has a 0% faculty appointment, and served as associate dean in the College of Medicine. She commented that the position has made her love the University even more. She is proud of the way problems are handled.

Dr. Kies said that the members of the Board would welcome opportunities to be educated by the faculty. She recommended that the Senates Conference invite Board members to meet with the group. Dr. Kies offered to add any information from the Conference to the Board's portal.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. and resumed at 1:20 p.m.

IV. Meeting with President Easter and Vice President Pierre

President Easter reported that he and Vice President Pierre recently visited ten legislators to discuss procurement relief, support for undocumented students, and general budgetary issues. A particular concern is the sun-setting of the state's income tax increase on December 31. The University could be asked to assume more of the cost of benefits to employees if the state loses the increased income tax revenue.

President Easter expressed concern that high tuition is making it more difficult to sustain current enrollments. While the University has received more applications than ever, the acceptance rate has been lower. The group discussed the need for more financial aid assistance to students.

Vice President Pierre discussed the University Administration budget process that was initiated last year. The Budget Review Advisory Committee that he formed includes faculty representatives, some from USC. President Easter commented that University Administration provides services to the core missions of the University and its customers should have a role in deciding whether the services provided are adequate.

President Easter said that there is no new information on pensions or a University sponsored supplemental retirement program. Once the legal issues are resolved, the University will determine the best way to proceed. The University would like to negotiate some procurement relief if it is required to take on pension costs.

Vice President Pierre discussed efforts to change the appointment approval process so that the Board takes action before an appointment begins. The early steps in the process need to be timelier and Board needs to be more flexible with deadlines. Part of the problem is due to the Banner system, which also causes challenging implications with the budget timeline. Both the President and Vice President confirmed that the goal is to have the appointment approval problems worked out before the next hiring cycle.

The Conference expressed concern with actions taken by the director and staff of the State Universities Civil Service System in relation to classifying and hiring employees as academic professionals. President Easter explained that legislation passed in the 1990's gave public universities decision-making rights for whether a position should be classified as civil service or academic professional. The University has three members from the Board of Trustees on the Civil Service Merit Board who look out for the best interests of the University. Professor Chambers said that, later in the meeting, the Conference would consider endorsing a resolution from the Council of Illinois University Senates on this subject. In addition, he proposed that the Conference consider writing a letter to the Board of Trustees stressing the importance of this situation.

Professor LaDu reported that there was concern on the east side of the UIC campus about the future of the Student Excel Program. The President said that he would look into the matter.

President Easter discussed concerns with the lack of progress in enrolling students from underrepresented groups, especially African-American students. The University needs to evaluate the appropriate use of funds for recruiting, admitting, and retaining these students. Vice President Pierre discussed the situation at each campus. The top three reasons why students do not accept offers to attend the U of I have to do with money. The University often cannot compete with other institutions with financial aid offers.

Old Business – Action Items (continued)

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

Professor Burbules suggested that the Conference move on the recommendation of the USC Statutes and Governance Committee to forward the revisions to the *Statutes* to the three senates for review and approval. He commented that SGC recommended revised language to Article IX, Section 3.f, which he read, as a result of the discussion earlier in the meeting about this section. He also noted that there will be additional levels of review. Professor Tolliver moved to approve the revision. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved. Professor McDermott moved to send the document to the senates. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved. Professors Chambers and Burbules agreed that the letter would be send in both of their names. The Conference also approved to send to the senates the note from the Board that specifies the deadline and the document that recommends grouping the statutory changes into eight sections.

Professor Burbules said that he would forward the proposed revisions to the *General Rules* once the *Statutes* have been transmitted to the senates.

V. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of September 9, 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

VI. New Business

2. OT-316. University Senates Conference White Paper.

Professor Chambers reminded that Conference that, at its retreat, the group decided to develop a white paper to address various topics, including its role in shared governance. The people he has mentioned the white paper to, including the Chairman of the Board, have been enthusiastic. He asked each USC committee chair to send goals for this year.

VII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

3. 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 Tolliver reported that the UIUC Senate would consider the statutory changes at its October 20 meeting. She thought it was important to emphasize the timeline since this process began in 2010. The intention of the changes is to strengthen the protections of academic freedom on the campuses in the governing documents. Professor Villegas reported that the document is being considered by the UIS Senate's Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee. Professor Vincent reported that the UIC Senate's Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee is almost ready to report.

4. 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 proposed statutory changes were transmitted to the President in June and is still being reviewed by Legal Counsel.

5. 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.

6. OT-304. Open Access to Research Articles.

Professor Villegas referred to the Proposed Policy on Open Access to Research Articles at the University of Illinois and asked the Conference to approve sending the document to the senates for review. He commented that the report from the Open Access Task Force is almost ready to be sent to the legislature. The report will include the proposed policy, but consideration of the proposed policy by the senates will be a separate process.

Professor Villegas asked the Conference to consider the changes in the proposed policy. The Conference agreed to put the word “scholarly” back in where it was proposed for deletion under Grants of License and Limitations. The Conference approved sending the document to the senates.

7. OT-307. Leadership Development Program.

Professor Villegas said that the group would have its final meeting in Urbana next week. He will report on the entire experience at the December USC meeting.

8. OT-309. Presidential Search.

Professor Burbules said that the search is moving fast.

9. 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.

The UIS Senate approved the policy language on September 12.

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

Professor Tolliver said that the committee would meet next week.

11. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

Guests to invite were discussed. Professor Tolliver suggested having some meetings without a guest so there would be time for USC committees to meet.

12. Designated Observer of Board of Trustees Meeting:

Thursday, November 13, 2014	Chicago	Gay Miller
Thursday, October 30, 2014	GPEC	Donald Chambers

13. USC Report:

Thursday, September 11, 2014	Urbana	Sally Jackson
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14. Campus Updates.

Professors Vincent said the semester was going well and had nothing to report.

Professor Villegas said that the unionization movement at UIS is getting stronger while relations remain collegial.

Professor Graber said that the last UIUC Senate meeting included a session where members of the campus community could speak without floor privileges on the situation with Professor Steven Salaita. The Senate approved investigating the possibility of creating a College of Medicine that would be engineering based. The Senate also approved renaming the Institute of Genomic Biology to the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology.

The Conference followed up on its discussion with the President regarding issues with the State Universities Civil Service System concerning the classification of academic professionals. Professor Chambers welcomed a motion to endorse the Statement of Concern from the Council of Illinois University Senates or to create a separate resolution

from USC. The Conference decided to endorse the statement from CIUS and transmit the statement along with a cover letter to the President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Professor Tolliver suggested including in the cover letter an expression of appreciation to the Board members who serve on the Civil Service Merit Board for the work they have done and stress the importance of this issue. The Conference voted to endorse the CIUS statement and affirm support of protecting academic professional positions.

15. 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 Villegas said that the committee will be reaching out to the Board's University Healthcare System Committee members once the Huron Group report has been issued. He commented that this will be the third report written in regards to Urbana's proposal to create an independently-accredited College of Medicine. Professor Villegas offered to share the materials with the Conference.

Professor Miller reported that the committee will focus on four items: 1) academic analytics, 2) open access policy, 3) enrollment management and diversity, and 4) academic freedom.

16. OT-142. Updates on External Committees: 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 Advisory Committee (Mohammadian, Villegas, Wheeler); Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee (Boltuc, Chambers, Villegas, Wheeler).

Professor Villegas said that the VPAA BRAC is working on the new budget year.

VIII. 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 Chicago, September 18, 2014

EP-15.01 Proposal to Revise the Criteria for University Honors

2. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, September 22, 2014

EP.15.03 Proposal from the College of Engineering and the Graduate College to establish an MENG in Mechanical Engineering

EP.15.04 Proposal from the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish a Professional Science Master's concentration in the MS in Geography

EP.15.05 Proposal from the College of Engineering to establish an undergraduate minor in Computational Science and Engineering

EP.15.06 Rename the Institute for Genomic Biology as the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology

B. The following items were classified N by the University Senates Conference:

3. University of Illinois at Springfield, September 12, 2014

sNc,u Res. 44-1 Classified Research Policy

4. University of Illinois at Chicago, September 18, 2014

cNs,u Endorsed the motion to support a single and unified medical school in the University of Illinois

5. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, September 22, 2014

uNc,s EP.15.01 Proposal from the Senate Committee on Educational Policy to revise the 2014-2015 Academic Calendar

- EP.15.02 Proposal to Create of a College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Partnership with Carle Health System – Preliminary Endorsement
- EP.15.07 Academic Calendar 2019-2020
- EP.15.08 Academic Calendar 2020-2021
- EP.15.09 Academic Calendar 2021-2022
- EP.15.10 Academic Calendar 2022-2023
- EP.15.11 Academic Calendar 2023-2024
- EP.15.13 Establish a Formal Winter Session in the 2014- 2015 Academic Calendar

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Pending Items

OT-223. Annual Review of the Vice Presidents.

OT-265. Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government.

OT-298. Shared Governance in a Changing Environment.

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