

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, October 27, 2022

PLACE: Videoconference

PRESENT: Benson, Burbules, Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote (Chair), Erricolo, Fisher, Hobbs, Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Maher, Sharma, Stroschio, Tolliver, Varden, Weuve

ABSENT: Peiravian, Wink

GUESTS: Avijit Ghosh, Timothy Killeen, Scott Rice

Professor De Groote called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

I. President's Session: President Killeen and IEVP Ghosh

President Killeen said that the strategic enrollment plan surpassed its goal of 93,500 students by 2021 with about 95,000 students enrolled. UIS enrollment grew by 6.5%, surpassing its goal. UIC and UIUC met their designed goals. The next initiative will be the strategic faculty recruitment program, with a goal of adding 300 faculty over the next few years. This number is over and above retirements and replacements. The initiative also includes retaining faculty and providing adequate compensation.

The system has prepared the FY24 budget and presented it to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). The next step is to take the proposal to the Board of Trustees for approval in November. Senate and House appropriation hearings will follow in the spring. Last year, a 9.5% increase was requested, with the system receiving a 5% increase that was backdated. The rationale for this year's increase will focus on faculty recruitment and retention, improving the faculty-to-student ratio, and bridge programming. President Killeen commented that the U of I System has highly successful bridge programs. Onboarding young people is highly successful and helps close achievement gaps. The State's Bridge Program for Underrepresented Students Act sets guidelines for public higher education institutions. The system's budget request asks for funding for the bill.

EVP Ghosh discussed the capital budget request, which includes maintenance to current buildings. Other projects include improvements to the libraries at UIC and UIUC, the Art and Design Building at UIUC, and the College of Business at UIC. A new building at the medical center in Rockford will focus on serving rural areas. President Killeen commented on other projects, such as replacing Illini Hall and renovating Altgeld Hall at UIUC, and a new Computer Science building, expansion of the Innovation Center, and an outpatient services building at UIC. The President said that the design of the DPI building is complete.

President Killeen noted that the economic impact study found that the entire U of I System provides a \$19B per year return on investment in Illinois. Vice President Nazon's office is conducting a public sentiment survey on how the U of I System is perceived.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of December 8, 2022

President Killeen reported that research volume is up to \$1.3B in expenditures throughout the system. The culmination of the philanthropic campaign, Altogether Extraordinary, took place on Foundation Weekend, which coincided with Homecoming Weekend. The campaign surpassed its goal of \$3.1B, reaching \$3.6B.

President Killeen said that faculty awards were given out the previous week. He congratulated Professor Erricolo on his award. The President also said that there was a PELP (President's Executive Leadership Program) session in Chicago last week. He mentioned that Professors Rob Kar and Celest Weuve were members of PELP.

President Killeen invited Professor Rob Kar to comment on the statewide tour that took place earlier in the semester. The tour included visits with legislators, companies, schools, extension offices, civic leaders, and leadership of other universities. Professor Kar commented that the experience was very moving, and he was glad that shared governance people were invited to participate. He believed that the U of I System's vision for serving the public good was emerging, and each university had a lot to share. Professor Kar said that there are opportunities to help areas where there are food deserts, build pipelines from K-12 to our institutions, and discover the needs of people round the state. President Killeen commented that the participants of the tour were welcomed everywhere. He added that IIN is working with legislators to bring help to their communities.

President Killeen discussed an initiative that would provide the system with a permanent office in Mexico City. The partnership would encourage bilateral student recruitment with institutions in Mexico and the U of I System.

President Killeen said that the Secretary of the Board of Trustees would be stepping down in May. An internal search is being initiated. He also provided an update on the search for a new Executive Vice President. USC members discussed the consultative process outlined in the *Statutes* for system officers other than the president and chancellors. President Killeen also discussed the search process for the UIC Chancellor position.

USC provided an update on its retreat that was held in September. Topics included: Online Technology, including existing courses and new courses, online programs for non-traditional students, transfer and course articulation for online classes, infrastructure to support online courses, shared governance in developing online courses, and support for online students; FOIA concerns, particularly how the system interprets and implements FOIA law; and the system's Code of Conduct, which USC reviewed. The group discussed the need for a policy on bullying. President Killeen commented that the Code of Conduct is aspirational and sets a tone. He said that he was hearing USC say that there was a need for a policy that would focus on bullying. President Killeen mentioned that Article X of the *Statutes* would be revisited soon, as the statutory process for dismissal takes too long.

The meeting recessed at 12:30 p.m. and resumed at 1:00 p.m.

II. Meeting with Scott Rice, Deputy University Counsel

Professor Tolliver welcomed Mr. Rice. She began the session explaining concerns with the way the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) law is being interpreted and implemented. The law defines records that are subject to FOIA as being records that are in relation to public business. However, the system passes FOIA requests on to employees with the assumption that anything any employee writes is open to the public, rather than vetting the request to decide whether it is really a public record being sought. In addition, faculty have been told that their syllabi are subject to FOIA, although course materials are not subject to FOIA. Some FOIA requests are very large in scope. There is a provision for the office responsible for FOIA requests to ask for a more specific definition of the materials being requested. Some requests target specific faculty or faculty groups. Professor Tolliver said that USC had a productive discussion with Kirsten Ruby and Matt Sullard during its September retreat. USC understands that those in the system who are responsible for FOIA requests are hard-working and overworked. However, asking employees to share personal information that is not business related is not a good interpretation of the FOIA law. The state agency responsible for interpretation and implementation of the FOIA law is the Public Access Counselor (PAC). The system's governmental relations operation should work with PAC to protect employees from excessive requests that fall outside of the intent of the law. Professor Tolliver said that Professor Burbules and she drafted a statement for all faculty that would provide guidelines when dealing with FOIA requests.

Mr. Rice commented that, while the University of Illinois is an agency of the State of Illinois, the state does not understand our job as a university and how the FOIA law does not really fit us. There is difficulty in discerning what the requestor wants and determining whether the request is related to public business. He agreed that sometimes the focus of a request needs to be narrowed down. Mr. Rice said that the system should re-examine syllabi as a protected material. He suggested sometimes picking up a phone rather than sending an email, keeping email tidy, and making sure draft documents are marked as such. Mr. Rice indicated that PAC had not updated its FOIA guidelines since September 2013. He said that the system should engage with PAC. Professor Weuve suggested that the system or each university should provide an educational component on FOIA for employees.

Mr. Rice said that we should do a better job of capturing what the FOIA request wants, and documents should be managed better. We should find out what the appropriate boundaries should be. He noted that there is a five-day calendar for responses to FOIA requests.

Professor De Groote thanked Mr. Rice for taking the concerns of USC back to the FOIA office. She said that USC would appreciate his feedback on the document written by Professors Burbules and Tolliver once it is finalized.

III. Business Meeting Call to Order

The business meeting began at 1:50 p.m.

IV. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor De Groote commented that there had been good discussions today. She said that USC had a lot to do, and she hoped to keep the momentum moving forward.

V. USC Committee of the Whole Discussion – Follow-up items from morning session

Members agreed that the USC Statutes and Governance Committee should work with the system offices on revisions to Article X of the *Statutes*. Professor De Groote was hopeful that there would be improvements to the implementation of FOIA. USC discussed the need for proper consultation when following statutory requirements concerning the appointment of certain system officers. There was mention of putting together guidelines.

VI. Approval of Minutes – August 30, 2022

Professor Maher moved to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion was seconded and approved by a roll call vote.

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.

Professor Fisher moved to approve the classifications. The motion was seconded and approved by roll call vote.

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

1. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, September 19, 2022

- EP.22.108 Interdisciplinary Health Sciences: Health Technology, BS -- Add a new concentration in Health Technology for the Interdisciplinary Health Science (I-Health) major
- EP.22.131 Human Resources Management, CERT -- Establish a Campus Graduate Certificate (CERT) program based on an existing LER college certificate program
- EP.23.001 Eliminate the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Biochemistry in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- EP.23.003 Establish the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science + Bioengineering in the Grainger College of Engineering
- EP.23.004 Establish the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science + Physics in the Grainger College of Engineering
- EP.23.008 Reorganization of the Program in Comparative and World Literature in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2. University of Illinois at Chicago, September 29, 2022

- PR-23.01 Proposal to Revise the Master of Science in Chemistry and Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry
- EP-23.01 Proposal to Revise the UIC Law Policy on Credit Hours for Coursework

3. University of Illinois at Springfield, October 5, 2022

- Res. 52-09 Renaming Library Instructional Services Program to Department for Information Literacy and Academic Outreach

4. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October 10, 2022

- EP.23.007 Revise the Bachelor of Science in Metropolitan Food & Environmental Systems in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
- EP.23.009 Eliminate the Extramural Master of Science in Food Science and Human Nutrition in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College
- EP.23.010 Revise the Concentration in Industrial Design in the Master of Fine Arts in Art and Design in the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College

EP.23.011 Eliminate the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography in the College of Fine and Applied Arts

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

5. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, September 19, 2022

ucNc,s

EP.22.148 Report of Administrative Approvals through April 25, 2022

EP.23.002 Report of Administrative Approvals through August 29, 2022

EP.23.005 Report of Temporary Suspensions through August 29, 2022

EP.23.006 Report of Administrative Approvals through September 12, 2022

6. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October 10, 2022

ucNc,s

SP.20.07 Revision to the Bylaws, Part B.11 (Senate Committees), Part E (Governing and Advisory Bodies), and Part F (Senate Representatives to Other Bodies)

7. University of Illinois at Springfield, October 21, 2022

sNc,uc

Res. 52-07 Temporary Modification of Undergraduate Council Membership

Res. 52-06 Schroeder Honorary Degree

VIII. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

IX. Old Business - Action Items

There was no old business for action.

X. Today's Business

1. USC Presentations to the Board of Trustees

Professor Maher provided an update on the presentation that would be given to the Board at its November meeting.

2. Observer for the next Board of Trustees meeting:

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Chicago

William Maher

3. Follow-up on Retreat Outcomes

Professor De Groote said that Professors Tolliver and Weuve would participate in the task force to review the University Code of Conduct. Professor Burbules said that online and hybrid education should be a continuous topic of discussion with the President. Professor Fisher said that it would be good to establish guidelines for non-degree programs.

4. Discussion of USC guests

The group discussed guests to invite.

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

XI. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

1. OT-385. FOIA concerns; External Relations and Communications as guests. Transferred from 6/29/22 agenda for further discussion. Kirsten Ruby and Matt Sullard met with USC on 9/27/22.

Professor Burbules said that there is a draft proposal that, when finished, should be distributed to every faculty and staff member to help them protect themselves when dealing with FOIA issues. When USC is satisfied with the final document, it should be sent to Scott Rice for final vetting and then to the senates before going to all faculty and staff. Professor Burbules asked USC members to send Professor Tolliver and him any final advice on the document.

2. ST-83. Revisions to the *Statutes* – new proposed revisions and proposed revisions from ST-77 that need further discussion (B File). Sent to the Executive Vice President 5/1/20. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 following ST-77) transmitted to UIS, UIC, and UIUC Senates 9/2/21. UIC Senate responded with Collated Comments 1/12/22.

Members from each university provided an update on the status of their senate's progress.

3. ST-84. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4 – Changes in Existing Units. Passed UIUC Senate 11/12/18. Transmitted to Senates 12/18/18. Revised UIUC Senate document 4/22/19. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 5/7/19. Passed UIS Senate 8/30/19. Passed with amendments UIC Senate 1/30/20. UIC Senate amendments transmitted to UIS and UIUC Senates 3/2/20. Passed UIS Senate 4/3/20. Passed with amendments UIUC Senate 4/27/20. Reconciled language approved by USC 5/29/20. Reconciled language to Senates 6/2/20. UIUC Senate USSP response 6/5/20. UIC SEC response 6/10/20. UIS Senate response 4/30/21. Transmitted to President 6/3/21.

4. ST-85. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 1 (Tenure of Academic Staff) (a) 6 and 7 – to permit the use of five-year appointments for non-tenure track faculty. Passed UIC Senate 4/22/20. Transmitted to UIS and UIUC Senates 5/1/20. Passed UIUC Senates 3/8/21. Passed UIS Senate 3/26/21. Transmitted to the President 4/5/21.

5. ST-86. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article III, Sections 3 and 5, and Article VI – Dean, Director, or Campus Librarian. Passed UIUC Senate 4/27/20. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 5/1/20. Passed UIC Senates 10/21/20. Passed UIS Senate 4/9/21. Transmitted to President 5/5/21.

6. ST-87. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article I, Sections 5 – Chancellors and Vice Presidents, Article II, Section 3a (1) – Faculty Role in Governance, and Article III, Section 1g – The University. Passed UIUC Senate 11/15/21. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 3/2/22.

7. ST-88. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article IV, Section 1 – The Department, Section 2 – Department Organized with a Chair, Section 3 – Department Organized with a Head, and Section 4 – Change of Departmental Administrative Organization. Passed UIUC Senate 3/7/22. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 4/6/22.

8. OT-372. Proposal to establish a consultation process for system policies. Sent to Executive Vice President Wilson 2/3/21. Response from Executive Vice President 5/6/21. USC discussed moving forward on 6/24/21.

9. OT-381. EO Accountability

10. OT-382. FBBC report back to USC re: tuition/cost of attendance

[3-10] No new information.

11. OT-383. Experiences with senate auditors

Professor De Groot reported that she discussed this issue with President Killeen and EVP Ghosh. They talked about sharing USC's concerns with the auditors.

12. OT-384. Experiences with the Office of Legal Counsel

No new information.

13. University Updates

UIS members discussed the recent resignation of the UIS Provost.

Professor Jenkins reported on a meeting he had with the Council of Deans in his role as UIUC SEC Chair.

USC members from UIC and UIUC discussed a UIUC Computer Science course that would be taught at DPI in Chicago.

14. OT-381. Updates from Standing Committees: Academic Affairs and Research (AARC); Finance, Budget, and Benefits Committee (FBBC); Statutes and Governance Committee (SGC).

There were no reports.

15. OT-142. Updates from External Groups with USC Representatives: Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee (Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, Aria Razfar); Enrollment Management Policy Council (Donald Wink); President's Executive Leadership Program (Aria Razfar); U of I System Going Forward: Excellence Amid COVID-19 Steering Committee (John Dallesasse); University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council (Michael Strocio).

DPI EC: Professor Jenkins said that the DPI bylaws should be revised to include guidelines on how USC provides its representatives to the DPI Executive Committee.

There were no other reports.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.