

MINUTES¹
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, November 21, 2013

PLACE: Room 210 Illini Union, Urbana

PRESENT: Boltuc, Campbell, Chambers (Vice Chair), Deberry-Spence, De Groote, Erricolo, Fadavi*, Fisher, Francis, Graber, Kalita, Mallory, Miller, Mohammadian, Tolliver, Villegas (Chair), Wheeler

ABSENT: Kay, Leff, Maher

GUESTS: Robert Easter, Avijit Ghosh, Christophe Pierre

*Participated by phone in the morning.

Professor Jorge Villegas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He welcomed President Easter, Vice President Pierre, and Dr. Ghosh to the meeting.

I. Meeting with President Easter, Vice President Pierre, and Dr. Ghosh

Dr. Ghosh provided an update on pension reform. The University participated in legislative pension committee sessions a while back and the committee was looking at the IGPA six-point plan. After a couple of months of silence, two weeks ago there were a number of reports of a new pension bill that the General Assembly will consider the beginning of December. A number of elements in the proposal would be of great concern to the University in the way it would affect employees and retirees. There are provisions that would increase the retirement age in a graduated manner, change the COLA, change what counts towards pensionable salary, and change the effective rate of interest. While the University had proposed increasing employee contribution to SURS, there have been indications that the conference committee is looking at reducing employee contribution to 7% in consideration of reduced benefits. President Easter commented that there is currently no bill, so it is difficult to know how to respond. If reports are true, however, the changes would be detrimental to higher education.

In response to a suggestion from the Conference that the University develop a supplemental plan, President Easter said that he has asked certain University administrators what the options might be and whether there would be any statutory constraints. Any such plan would have to be fully funded by the University. Dr. Ghosh added that the University competes in a global market and must be able to compete with peer institutions.

¹Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of January 28, 2014

Conference members discussed how the possible pension changes would create a huge burden for the University. Hiring and retaining faculty would be more difficult.

President Easter commented that the state is still heavily invested in the University. Currently, \$650M comes to the University in direct operating budget and the state makes payments of around \$1B per year for health care. If a pension bill is passed, the University will have to deal with it and look at which activities it can continue to support. He said that the Senates Conference will have to be a part of that conversation. Dr. Ghosh said that any bill that passes will most likely end up in court. He added that the bill would include a clause that would force the state to make payments so that the liability goes to zero in thirty years, assuming that the rates being used to calculate the figures are accurate.

The Conference considered making a statement on pensions and decided to continue that discussion during the business meeting.

President Easter said that the administrative review resulted in a final report with 47 recommendations. He sat down with the chancellors to discuss the list that would move forward. The next step is for the President to meet with Chairman Kennedy.

President Easter commented that philanthropy is becoming increasingly important. He said that most donors fund scholarships or initiatives that benefit faculty. The President asked the Conference's thoughts on whether there were areas in fundraising where the faculty could be helpful. He acknowledged that fundraising is primarily the job of the development officers. Vice President Pierre commented that donors get excited about research and like to meet with faculty and students.

Conference members commented that there already seems to be a fluidity of faculty involved in administrative activities, such as fundraising; it is important to keep the donor apprised of the activities associated with the donor's gift; faculty should be aware of philanthropic opportunities; the aim of donor should be kept in mind; emeritus faculty could be involved in fundraising; and training should be provided for heads of departments.

President Easter said that the Board of Trustees approved changes to the organizational structure of the academic health center at its November meeting. The position of Vice President for Health Affairs will be discontinued and replaced with the position of Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs. This moves the oversight of the health enterprise back to the UIC campus. The Board will consider how to proceed at its March meeting.

President Easter reported that a search for a new president would be launched next year. The Board retreat in July will include strategic planning.

President Easter distributed a document in regards to USC ST-72, proposed statutory revisions concerning academic freedom, and asked the Conference to consider the comments and recommendations.

Vice President Pierre commented that the Board appointed the Open Access Task Force, which will be chaired by John Wilkin, University Librarian in Urbana. Responding to a question, Dr. Pierre said that his understanding was that the USC committee would come up with a draft open access policy that would include the elements of the main components outlined in SB1900. The draft will be shared with the task force. After any modifications are made, the draft will be included in the report of the task force along with an implementation plan. The task force will report to the Board in November 2014. The group discussed the process, which will include senate review of the draft policy. A clarification was made that open access publishing does not take away individual property rights.

II. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Villegas referred to the USC guidelines on conduct of business. He stressed that the Conference will be involved in many important issues, so it will be important to remember how to work together.

III. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of October 22, 2013

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. 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, October 30, 2013

- PR-14.03 Revision of the Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science
- PR-14.08 Proposal to Establish a Department of Emergency Medicine in the College of Medicine at Peoria
- PR-14.09 Proposal to Reactivate and Revise of the Minor in Religious Studies
- PR-14.10 Proposal to Establish a Minor in Business Administration
- PR-14.11 Proposal to Eliminate the Bachelor of Science in Dentistry
- CP-14.01 Proposal to Eliminate the Advanced Certificate in Histology
- CP-14.02 Proposal to Eliminate the Advanced Certificate in Oral Diagnosis and Oral Medicine
- CP-14.03 Proposal to Eliminate the Advanced Certificate in Oral Pathology
- CP-14.04 Proposal to Eliminate the Advanced Certificate in Radiology (Dental)
- CI-14.01 Elimination of the Temporomandibular Joint and Facial Pain Research Center
- CI-14.02 Transfer of the Child and Family Development Center from the College of Education to the Institute of Disability and Human Development, College of Applied Health Sciences

2. University of Illinois at Springfield, November 8, 2013

- R43-10 Increase Credit Hours Required for the Minor in Chemistry
- R43-11 Decrease Credit Hours Required for the Minor in Psychology

3. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 18, 2013

- EP.14.08 Proposal from the College of Business Department of Accountancy and the Graduate College to Increase the Credit Requirement Needed to Earn the MS in Taxation

- EP.14.09 Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) and the Graduate College to Add the Existing Graduate Concentration in Medieval Studies to the PhD in East Asian Languages and Cultures
- EP.14.11 Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) and the Graduate College to Revise the Language Requirement in the Graduate Concentration in Medieval Studies
- EP.14.13 Proposal from the College of Engineering to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering
- EP.14.14 Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to Revise the Undergraduate Minor in Portuguese
- EP.14.15 Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to Establish an Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Minor in Medieval Studies
- EP.14.16 Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to Revise the Major in the Sciences and Letters Curriculum: BALAS in Interdisciplinary Studies, Medieval Studies Concentration

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

4. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 18, 2013

- SP.14.06 Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the *Statutes*

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

5. University of Illinois at Chicago, October 30, 2013

- cNs,u Endorsed report from Ad hoc committee on campus reorganization
- Approved statement on hospital debt
- Approved motion about the health science reorganization process

6. University of Illinois at Springfield, November 8, 2013

- sN,c,u R43-7 Modification of Standards for Reappointment
- R43-9 Honorary Doctorate of Letters Awarded to Evelyn Brandt Thomas

7. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 18, 2013

uNc,s RS.14.01 Resolution on Governance Procedures for Changes in Academic Organization.

The Conference discussed the importance of faculty being involved in academic planning and how to best engage the faculty before a decision has already been made.

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

V. Old Business – Action Items

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

Professor Villegas referred to the proposed slate of nominees for the USC Open Access Committee. He opened the floor for additional nominations. Professor Chambers moved approval of the slate. The slate was approved. Professor Villegas said that the committee would meet soon and the Conference would be updated when any information becomes available. He commented that the Open Access Task Force would meet for the first time on January 6.

VI. New Business

2. OT-305. Report from the UIUC Senate Executive Committee Task Force on Faculty Issues and Concerns.

Professor Villegas praised the document from the task force. He asked the USC committee chairs to review the document for pertinent agenda items for their committees. Professor Tolliver suggested that the Conference adopt parts 1 and 2 in recommendation #6, which focuses on budget transparency. The Conference discussed the different levels of budget transparency at the campuses and within units and the importance of receiving “un-sanitized” budget information.

Professor Fisher moved to transmit the entire UIUC SEC document to the other senates and emphasize #6 as an item of interest. The motion was seconded. Professor Tolliver mentioned that some aspects of the document are specifically geared towards the Urbana campus. In addition, she suggested that the motion be amended to indicate that the Conference endorses parts 1 and 2 of recommendation 6 as a model for budgetary disclosure that the other campuses might want to consider. The amended motion was voted on and approved.

VII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

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

Professor Villegas noted that the review of the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer would be led by the USC Finance, Budget, and Benefits Committee. In addition to the position description, he suggested that the committee obtain the objectives. Professor Boltuc, chair of the committee, welcomed others to participate who might be interested. He asked that the committee be given a timeline to respond.

4. 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.

Professor Tolliver said that she and Professor Mohammadian reviewed the document that President Easter provided. Professor Tolliver indicated that the list of bullet points in the President's document is what they have been dealing with for months with Peg O'Donoghue and Katherine Galvin. Professor Tolliver said that, last summer, she composed a potential revision to the ST-72 document, which she then presented. She explained that the main problems are that 1) the President, Peg, and Katherine feel that the proposal, as approved by the three senates and USC, creates a problem by combining the principles of academic freedom and first amendment rights, and 2) they are not comfortable with the ambiguity of the term academic staff. Professor Fisher commented that academic staff is clearly defined in the *Statutes*.

Professor Tolliver thought that the best way to proceed would be to go back to the senates and convey the President's concerns, preferably in a more formal document, and attach the proposed wording. The Conference thanked Professor Tolliver for coming up with language that might address the concerns. The Conference planned to vote on the proposed revisions at the next meeting.

5. ST-79/OT-296. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, 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.

Professor Tolliver reminded the Conference that the changes are designed to bring the *Statutes* in line with practice. The UIC Senate approved the language that was resent to the senates in June. The UIUC Senate approved language that utilizes the procedure that is used when a senate initiates revisions to the *Statutes*, rather than the procedure used when the Board initiates changes. Professor Fisher said that the changes proposed by UIUC might alleviate some concerns raised by the UIS Senate.

The Conference decided to send the UIUC Senate language to the UIC and UIS Senates for consideration.

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

No new information.

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

Professor Villegas commented that this item had been discussed during the morning session. The USC Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee plans to monitor any new pension information.

Professor Tolliver reported that Dr. Ghosh sent a note to her after the morning meeting indicating that the General Assembly plans to meet in two weeks. He suggested some points for discussion by USC. She commented that USC could put together a resolution today since time is of the essence. Professor Erricolo said that another point to pass along is that for every dollar invested in the University, the state gets back “x” amount of dollars. The Conference endorsed the points made by Professor Ghosh and also the statement about investing in the University. Professor Chambers moved to approve sending the items mentioned in a resolution, that Professor Tolliver would construct during the meeting.

Professor Tolliver read a resolution for the Conference to consider. After a couple of minor editorial revisions, Professor Frances moved to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously approved.

8. OT-297. Implications of the Open Meetings Act to the operations of the University Senates Conference.

No new information.

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

No new information.

10. OT-301. Records and Information Management Services (RIMS).

Professor Villegas said that the RIMS committee wants to have a discussion on each campus about the repository of emails. The group would like suggestions of faculty members who might want to participate. The Conference discussed principles that should guide which emails are archived. Professor Fisher commented that archiving of emails would include business that is discussed and approved by email that was formerly recorded on paper.

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

No new information.

12. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

Guests to invite were discussed.

13. Report of Board of Trustees Observer and USC Report Presenter:

November 14, 2013 (Thursday) USC report:	Springfield	Jorge Villegas Donald Chambers
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14. Designation of Board of Trustees Observer and USC Report Presenter:

Thursday, January 23, 2014 (Thursday) Faculty report:	Chicago	Donald Chambers Lynn Fisher
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15. Campus Updates.

There were no updates.

16. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

Academic Affairs and Research Committee	Matthew Wheeler
Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee	Peter Boltuc
Hospital and Health Affairs Committee	Donald Chambers
Statutes and Governance Committee	Joyce Tolliver

17. 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, Villegas); Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee (Boltuc, Chambers, Wheeler).

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.