DATE: Tuesday, December 1, 2020

PLACE: Videoconference

PRESENT: Brennan, Campbell, Dallesasse, Danziger, De Groote, Dutta, Erricolo, Fisher, Hunt, Jenkins, Kar (Vice Chair), Maher, Razfar, Span, Steinberg, Stroscio, Varden, Wade (Chair), Zhan

ABSENT: Weuve

GUESTS: Timothy Killeen, Barbara Wilson

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

I.   <u>Meeting with President Killeen and Executive Vice President Wilson</u>

President Killeen discussed mental health issues that are normal for this time of year with final exams and the holidays and the added difficulty of dealing with the pandemic. He said that Executive Vice President (EVP) Wilson is leading efforts to address mental health issues. Also, the President commented that we need to be thinking about what a post-pandemic higher education will look like. There are big issues that relate to our mission and guiding principles, and we want to be proactive rather than reactive.

EVP Wilson said that there are a lot of questions about formats for learning and higher education's future. With most classes being online, there is this idea that teaching could be cheaper and the expenses of running a campus could be greatly reduced by shrinking the physical plant. However, we know that teaching online does not work for everything and often does not work well. She stressed that we need to be in charge of the narrative as we go forward. There are concerns as to whether students are learning as well, whether at-risk students are falling behind, and how students develop leadership skills, as some examples. We need to have data and evidence.

USC members discussed some of the advantages of teaching in-person and difficulties of teaching online. This is an opportunity to explore emerging hybrid models of teaching. A useful narrative might be to expand online teaching as a tool to reach communities of people who cannot come here by improving accessibility and to help close the digital divides. Members also discussed the learning challenges for K-12 students and how the current situation might set them back.

President Killeen commented that it would be detrimental to just look at dollars and efficiency. Much of the college experience includes the social aspects, learning values, and growing up in a university setting. EVP Wilson added that all of the in-person experiences cannot just be an emotional argument as the components cost a lot of money; we need to have compelling arguments.

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[1]Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of January 26, 2021

President Killeen talked about the role that the University of Illinois System could have in bringing together the regional talent base to solve problems in the Midwest. He felt that this is a transformative moment where the system could provide leadership. The Discovery Partners Institute would play an important role. The President discussed a partnership with the University of Toronto that is in the formative stages.

EVP Wilson told USC that there would be an announcement today on the second round of funding for the Arts and Humanities initiative. There will also be a second group of distinguished faculty hires being announced. In addition, she noted that the search is about to be launched for the new position of Vice President for External Relations and Communications.

President Killeen commented that the U of I system has something to be intensely proud of in terms of the robust Covid-19 testing and tracking system that has been implemented. The purpose of frequent testing with fast results is to manage outbreaks. There is no evidence that the Urbana campus has infected the community. Therapeutics are helping to manage Covid-19. When the vaccine becomes available it will take time to distribute, and there still will be many months of managing the pandemic. Managing the virus has been expensive, but necessary to stay open safely. The U of I system received funds from the CARES Act and is working with the state to provide additional funding for expanding SHIELD Illinois. Entities outside of Illinois that are interested in adopting our approach will go through SHIELD T3. The President said that there is an abundance of data that has been gathered throughout the system, but it will take time to sort through and manage. EVP Wilson added that that the system has taken a bold approach to the pandemic. There have been excellent partnerships with the Urbana-Champaign mayors and the Public Health District. Getting testing into the community would be a huge game-changer.

EVP Wilson took a moment to celebrate the approval of the revisions to the *Statutes* and *General Rules* by the Board of Trustees at its last meeting. She commented that many USC members were a big part of that success. There is another round of changes being considered and meetings are already taking place. EVP Wilson said that lessons learned from the first round included the need to form a robust working group, rather than one group making revisions that circle around the various entities that needed to be a part of the discussions. Another lesson was to realize that we are all partners, which led to the spirit of working together. The new changes are more targeted towards particular parts of the *Statutes* and should go faster moving forward. The group discussed the appropriate role of legal counsel. USC members expressed appreciation that both President Killeen and EVP Wilson are committed to shared governance.

There was a discussion of the reorganization process underway at UIS. President Killeen said that he and EVP Wilson have been meeting with several groups, but this is on the chancellor's table. EVP Wilson added that she also meets with the chancellor and provost. The focus of reorganization is on structure and finances that grow the university in the best possible way. There is a challenge to increase enrollment. Figuring out what students want is important. There were comments from USC members about the desire to slow down the process, engage in more open-ended conversations, have a better idea of the revenue stream over the next several years, and determine whether reorganization is the best way to solve issues.

(The meeting recessed at 12:15 p.m. and resumed 1:00 p.m.)

II. Approval of University Senates Conference Minutes of October 27, 2020

Professor Erricolo moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Danziger and approved unanimously.

III. 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 *University of Illinois Statutes*. 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 classification of senate minutes. The motion was seconded by Professor Dutta and approved unanimously.

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

1. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 16, 2020

EP.21.021   Social Work, BSW -- To Add to The Existing Bachelor of Social Work a Second Degree-Completion Option

EP.21.022   BALAS in Linguistics and Teaching English as a Second Language -- Establish in Linguistics and Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

2. University of Illinois at Springfield, November 20, 2020

Res 50-12   Establish a Master of Science Program in Cybersecurity Management

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

3. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 16, 2020

uNc,s   EC.20.06   Revision to the Election Rules for the Student Electorate, Section 5 – Conducting Elections

EP.21.020   Report of Administrative Approvals through November 2, 2020

EP.21.024   Report of Administrative Approvals through November 9, 2020

SP.20.15   Revision to the Bylaws, Part D.4 – Committee on the Budget

SP.20.17   Revision to the Bylaws, Part A – Meetings (Presiding at Senate Meetings)

SP.20.18   Revision to the Bylaws, Part D.7 – Conference on Conduct Governance

SP.20.20   Revision to the Bylaws, Part D.17 – Committee on Student Discipline

SP.20.24   Revision to the Bylaws, Part D.15 – Committee on the Library

SP.21.01   Revision to the Bylaws, Part D.1.c – Senate Executive Committee (Chair and Vice-Chair eligibility)

4. University of Illinois at Springfield, November 20, 2020

sNc,u   Res 50-11   Amend Senate Bylaws to Change Voting Membership of the Committee on Sustainability

5. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 20, 2020

uNc,s   EP.21.037   Fall 2020 Academic Policy Modifications

IV. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Wade had no remarks that could not be discussed in the morning follow-up discussion.

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

USC discussed concerns with the budget, while still recognizing that the U of I System is doing much better than many institutions. The group also discussed ways to strengthen shared governance at all levels within each university. Another topic was the role of legal counsel.

<u>Explanation of File Numbers</u>

ST - University of Illinois *Statutes*
GR - *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*
NC - Nominating Committee
OT - All other items

 VI.   <u>Old Business - Action Items</u>

1. OT-371. Proposed revisions to the University of Illinois Residency Status Policy.

Professor De Groote reported on behalf of the USC Statutes and Governance Committee, which was asked to look at the response from EVP Wilson. She said that SGC concluded that there was not much more to be done at this point, but it might be worthwhile in six months to ask for data to find out whether there were any unintended consequences. SGC also felt that it would be helpful for USC to receive information on policy revisions in advance and be provided with background information.

2. OT-372. Proposal to establish a consultation process for system policies.

Professor Kar spoke on behalf of the ad hoc committee looking at a process for reviewing systemwide policies. The document the group is considering calls for a structure that begins with the Executive Vice President bringing to USC any system policy where the faculty would have an interest. The next step would be to decide whether further review was needed. New policies would almost always require review, while revisions to current policies or changes to policies that are required by law might not. USC or the EVP might decide that the system policy needs senate review. Professor Kar added that there would be different levels of expertise by including the senates. The *ad hoc* committee also recommends that the EVP consider including faculty on system policy working groups and bring policies to USC early in the process.

3. OT-375. Discovery Partners Institute Bylaws.

USC members discussed the DPI Bylaws and the recommendations from the USC Statutes and Governance Committee. USC concluded that there was not enough information about DPI faculty membership, its organizational structure, and the Executive Committee's meeting rules. The group also had specific questions. In addition, USC felt like there should be more of an emphasis on DPI's role of addressing social challenges.

USC decided to send its recommendations and questions to Bill Jackson and Phyllis Baker with the request that the group receive a response before voting on the approval of the bylaws.

4. ST-77. Revisions to the *Statutes* – Edits and Updates (A File). Received from the Board of Trustees Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee 10/6/14. Transmitted to Senates 10/10/14. Passed UIC Senate 12/3/14. Passed UIS Senate 1/23/15. Passed UIUC Senate 5/4/15. Transmitted to the President 5/29/15. Transmitted to Senates 9/4/18. Passed UIC Senate with amendments 10/24/18. Passed UIS Senate with amendment 11/9/18. Passed

UIUC Senate with amendments 10/14/19. Transmitted to Senates for information 12/6/19. UIC Senate 1/30/20. UIUC Senate 2/10/20. UIS Senate 2/28/20. Transmitted to President 3/31/20. Approved by the Board of Trustees 11/12/20.

5. GR-46. Revisions to the *General Rules* – Edits and Updates. Received from the Board of Trustees Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee 10/6/14. Transmitted to the President 12/22/14. 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. Intellectual Property transmitted to the President 5/29/15. Revised IP to Senates 4/4/18. UIC Senate response 4/26/18 (not approved, provided recommendations) UIUC Senate response 4/30/18 (not approved, provided recommendations). Transmitted to Senates (Article III, Intellectual Property) 9/4/18. Passed UIC Senate 9/20/18. Passed UIUC Senate 10/15/18. Passed UIS Senate 11/9/18. New proposed revisions (Article III, Intellectual Property) transmitted to Senates 3/6/19. Advice from UIC Senate 4/24/19. Advice from the UIUC Senate 9/16/19. Passed UIS Senate 10/11/19. Transmitted to President 11/4/19. Edited clean version sent with ST-77 to President 3/31/20. Approved by the Board of Trustees 11/12/20.

6. 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. Referred back to UIUC Senate USSP Committee in consultation with CAFT 2/23/17. Passed UIUC Senate 10/14/19. Transmitted to Senates 11/4/19. Passed UIS Senate 12/6/19. Passed UIC Senate 1/30/20. Transmitted to President 3/4/20. Approved by the Board of Trustees, with modifications, 11/12/20.

7. ST-79. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II, Section 2.b, and Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference and the President 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. Revised language passed UIUC Senate 11/18/13. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 11/26/13. Passed UIS Senate 2/21/14. Passed UIC Senate 4/24/14. Transmitted to the President 6/11/14. USC new proposed revisions 4/27/17. Transmitted to Senates 5/11/17. Background statement to Senates 9/6/17. Passed UIS Senate 9/15/17. Voted down UIC Senate 11/30/17. Passed UIUC Senate with revisions 12/11/17. USC reconciled language to Senates 1/29/18. Passed UIUC Senate 4/2/18. Passed UIS Senate 4/6/18. Failed UIC Senate 4/26/18. Approved USC 5/3/18. Transmitted to President 6/1/18 with UIC response. Approved by the Board of Trustees 11/12/20.

8. ST-81. Revisions to *University of Illinois Nondiscrimination Statement*. Received from Vice President Pierre 10/9/15. Transmitted to Senates 10/12/15. Passed UIC Senate 10/28/15. Passed UIS Senate 12/11/15. Passed UIUC 3/7/16. UIUC Senate version transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 3/31/16. Passed UIS Senate 4/22/16. Passed UIC Senate 9/29/16. Transmitted to Vice President Wilson 11/22/16. Approved by the Board of Trustees, with modifications, 11/12/20.

9. ST-82. Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Sections 3. (Appointments, Ranks, and Promotions of the Academic and Administrative Staff) a., and 4 (Principles Governing Employment of Academic and Administrative Staffs) b. Approved by the UIUC Senate 5/2/16. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 6/6/16. Passed UIS Senate 9/23/16. Passed UIC Senate 10/26/16. Transmitted to President 12/5/16. Not approved by the Board of Trustees 11/12/20.

Professor De Groote moved to remove Items 4-9 from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Professor Kar and approved by voice vote.

VII. New Business

10. USC Observer to Board of Trustees meeting:

Thursday, January 21, 2021 Livestream James Brennan

11. OT-377. Removing the *Academic Sick Leave Policy* from the *General Rules* and making it a separate Human Resources policy.

The University Senates Conference discussed the removal of the provisions for academic sick leave from the *General Rules* and those provisions becoming the Academic Sick Leave Policy, which would be a separate HR system policy. The group wanted to make sure the removal of those provisions were in the version of the revised *General Rules* that was approved by the senates and transmitted by USC to the President.

USC acknowledged that sick leave provisions are not particularly suited for the *General Rules* (GR). However, there was concern that removing the academic sick leave provisions from the GR removes the requirement that USC be consulted if revisions are made. The group understood that the role of USC is advisory to GR revisions and changes can be made without USC consent. It was noted that the system has been consulting USC when there are new system policies and policy revisions. The group expected that this would still be the case in the future; USC would still want to be consulted if there are any revisions in the future to the Academic Sick Leave Policy.

VIII. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

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

USC discussed possible topics for the next report to the Board. The group decided to forgo giving a presentation at the January meeting and instead focus on having a report ready for the March Board meeting.

13. OT-374. System-wide Digital Accessibility Policy Guide Overview.

Professor Wade reported that each university has an office that is responsible for digital accessibility. The working group that is developing the guidelines are taking into consideration issues such as accessibility needs, risk aversion, and how faculty will follow the principles. There will most likely be training.

14. OT-376. Consideration of a New System Officer Position.

There was no new information.

15. ST-83. Revisions to the *Statutes* – new proposed revisions and proposed revisions from ST-77 that need further discussion (B File). Sent to Executive Vice President Wilson 5/1/20.

Professor De Groote reported that the Statutes and Governance Committee will be working on the additional revisions to the *Statues* with EVP Wilson and other system administrators.

16. 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 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 5/29/29. Reconciled language to Senates 6/2/20. UIUC Senate USSP response 6/5/20. UIC SEC response 6/10/20.

There was no new information.

17. ST-85. Proposed Revisions to the *Statute,* 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.

There was no new information.

18. 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.

There was no new information.

19. OT-366. Policy on Integrity in Research and Publication. Sent to USC by the Executive Vice President 3/16/20. Transmitted to Senates 4/2/20.

There was no new information.

20. OT-367. Clarification of the *General Rules* sections on intellectual property in relation to course materials. Approved by USC 5/29/20. Transmitted to Senates 6/2/20. UIC SEC response 6/10/20.

There was no new information.

21. OT-369. Addressing Systemic Racism and Racial Justice (formerly Proposed action plan for Black Lives Matter). Letter to President Killeen 6/25/20.

There was no new information.

22. OT-123. University Senates Conference Guests.

 The Conference discussed guests to invite to future meetings.

23. Report of USC Observer to Board of Trustees meeting:

 Thursday, November 12, 2020   Livestream   Lynn Fisher

24. University Updates.

 There were no updates.

25. OT-142. External Groups with USC Representatives: Enrollment Management Policy Council (Wade); President's Executive Leadership Program (De Groote); Vice President for Academic Affairs Faculty Advisory Committee for System Academic Affairs; Student Mental Health Services Summit Working Group (Hunt); Sexual Misconduct Implementation Group (Kar, Strahle, Stroscio); U of I System Going Forward: Excellence Amid COVID-19 Steering Committee (John Dallesasse); DPI Bylaws Task Force (De Groote).

 PELP: Professor De Groote said that the remaining sessions have been pushed back so that there is a better chance of having in-person events.

 Student Mental Health Summit: Professor Hunt said that the planning group continues to meet and is working on the next summit.

 Excellence Amid COVID-19: Professor Dallesasse said that the steering committee continues to meet and receives updates.

26. Reports from USC Committee Chairs:

 Academic Affairs and Research Committee   Aria Razfar
 Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee   Roy Campbell
 Statutes and Governance Committee   Sandy De Groote

 There were no reports.

IX. Adjournment

 The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.