

MINUTES<sup>1</sup>  
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, December 8, 2022

PLACE: Videoconference

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

ABSENT: Dallesasse, Peiravian, Sharma, Wink

GUESTS: Avijit Ghosh, Adrienne Nazon

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

I. Executive Vice President Ghosh (10am-11am) and Vice President Nazon (11am-12pm)

Professor De Groot commented that this would be the Senates Conference's last meeting with EVP Ghosh. She thanked him for all he has done for the U of I System in his many roles. EVP Ghosh said that it has been a privilege working with USC.

EVP Ghosh said that the budget request that was approved by the Board of Trustees will go to the Illinois Board of Higher Education and then to the Governor and Legislature. The budget request focuses on support for students and faculty. In addition to continued student support, including mental health support, the budget would expand the bridge program for incoming students. The bridge program makes a significant improvement to retention and graduation rates. Support for faculty includes hiring 300 new faculty over and above usual replacement, 200 at UIUC and 100 at UIC over the next few years, and improving annual compensation for faculty. The budget request calls for an 11.7% increase to the current appropriation. EVP Ghosh commented that the state appropriation is a small but important part of the system's budget. The state appropriation accounts for under 20% of the system's overall budget. However, this does not include funding from the state for payments on behalf, for example health insurance and pensions.

EVP Ghosh reported that all three universities are making progress in their transfer programs. Many students come here through that process. The biggest hinderance is courses transferring. Clear articulation is needed of which courses will transfer. 80% of students that request to transfer here are accepted. The Guaranteed Admissions Transfer Program initiated by the state does not really affect what we are already doing within the system. However, more students seem to be aware of the possibility of transferring to the U of I System. Other efforts are being made internally. UIC is working with Chicago City Colleges on articulation agreements. UIS is reviving its discussions with community colleges. USC requested that it and the senates be made aware of legislative initiatives that affect academics prior to being put into place. EVP Ghosh suggested that USC receive legislative updates on a regular basis.

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<sup>1</sup>Subject to approval at the University Senates Conference meeting of January 13, 2023

EVP Ghosh commented that there has been progress this year with procurement relief from the state. There are big changes in how we do construction projects, in that large projects can move along faster and be more cost-effective. The state's increase in MAP funding helps students while allowing the universities to put more funding into other types of programs.

EVP Ghosh said that he took USC's advice and is in the process of developing a policy on anti-bullying. He has already requested participation from USC. Professor De Groote said that Professor Weuve will be part of the group that is developing the policy.

EVP Ghosh discussed some of the things he worries about concerning higher education. Student numbers are decreasing. We need to make sure we have a variety of funding sources. Time to graduation often becomes five-to-six years. We need to make sure students can graduate on time. USC members commented on the use of online and hybrid programs, as well as expanding classes during the summer, and the importance of faculty controlling the curriculum. EVP Ghosh agreed that this should be a faculty-led process.

Professor De Groote expressed gratitude on behalf of USC for all EVP Ghosh as done.

Professor De Groote welcomed VP Nazon.

VP Nazon gave an overview presentation of the System Office of External Relations and Communications. A year and a half ago, the system leadership combined governmental relations with media relations, branding and marketing, advocacy, FOIA, strategic executive and crisis communications, and local relations. Some of the key points of the presentation included building the system's reputation with stakeholders, broadening the definition of what the U of I System does, focusing on engagement, support, advocacy, and investment, aligning communications with the system's strategic plans, building and sustaining inclusive and mutually supportive relationships, sharing our expertise, increasing our visibility, showcasing our workforce development, healthcare initiatives, innovation and research, helping to acquire funding, and influencing government policy.

USC members asked whether the ERC operations could help with collaborations among the three universities. VP Nazon felt that there were many possibilities for synergies throughout the system. USC members also raised concerns about the increasing number of FOIA requests and how the system responds, and growing demands for the Open Meetings Act (OMA) to allow for more flexibility. VP Nazon responded that it is sometimes not clear what people are after in their FOIA requests, but we must be transparent. Concerning OMA, the system would also like to see changes.

VP Nazon said that pressures on higher education are growing from all our stakeholders. There are expectations for us to be more than verbal contributors and bystanders. We should be looked to for expertise and resources. We need to build goodwill and emphasize diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Professor De Groote commented that USC would like to receive regular updates on legislation that affects academics. She thanked VP Nazon for meeting with USC.

The meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m.

II. Business Meeting Call to Order

The business meeting began at 1:05 p.m.

III. Remarks from the USC Chair

There were no remarks from the Chair.

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

Professor Weuve said that she and Professor Tolliver are part of a group that is reviewing the system's Code of Conduct, which is separate from the anti-bullying policy. The document is aspirational rather than elaborating on guiding principles. The Code will come to USC sometime in the spring. Professor Weuve commented that the anti-bullying policy needs to address all forms of bullying, including face-to-face, cyberbullying, and power differentials.

USC discussed time-to-degree issues. There was some concern with increasing summer courses, since faculty are typically on nine-month contracts and focus on research during the summer. Students often have internships or work during the summer. However, increasing summer opportunities should still be considered.

V. Approval of Minutes – October 27, 2022

Professor Burbules moved to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

VI. 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 Burbules moved to approve the classifications. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

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

1. University of Illinois at Chicago, October 26, 2022

PR-23.02 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art

2. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 14, 2022

EP-23.013 Establish the Concentration in Detail and Fabrication in the Master of Architecture in Architecture in the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College

3. University of Illinois at Springfield, November 18, 2022

Res. 52-11 Reduction in the Freshman Transfer Hour Requirement

Res. 52-12 Test Optional Policy

Res. 52-13 Creation of a Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies

4. University of Illinois at Chicago, December 1, 2022

PR-23.03 Proposal to Revise the Minor in Law and Society

PR-23.04 Proposal to Revise the Minor in Spanish for the Professions

PR-23.05 Proposal to Revise Highest Departmental Distinction for the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Integrated Health Studies, Concentration in Behavioral Health; and the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Integrated Health Studies, Concentration in Health and Sciences

PR-23.06 Proposal to Rename the Concentration in Molecular and Structural Biology in the Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences and Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences

PR-23.07 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Education in the Arts

PR-23.08 Proposal to Rename the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Polish, Russian, and Central and Eastern European Studies

PR-23.09 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Liberal Studies

EP-23.02 Proposal to Expand the Policy for Granting Retroactive Credit for ENGL 160: Academic Writing I

5. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, December 5, 2022

EP.23.015 Change the Name of the Department of Geology to the Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change

EP.23.018 Eliminate the Concentration in Railway Engineering in the Master of Engineering in Engineering in the Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College

EP.23.019 Establish a Concentration in Chemical Engineering Leadership in the Master of Engineering in Engineering in the Grainger College of Engineering, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Graduate College

EP.23.020 Eliminate the Concentration in Applied Learning Science in the Bachelor of Science Learning & Education Studies in the College of Education

EP.23.021 Revise the Concentration in Performance and Literature in the Master of Music in Music in the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College

HD.23.06 Nomination for Honorary Degree Award – Shotwell

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

6. University of Illinois at Chicago, December 1, 2022

Approved feedback on the proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 following ST-77)

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

7. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 14, 2022

uNc,s

EP.23.012 Report of Administrative Approvals Through October 17, 2022

EP.23.014 Report to Clarify Graduate College Policy Updates for AY 22-23

EP.23.016 Report of Administrative Approvals Through November 7, 2022

EP.23.017 Report of Temporary Suspensions Through November 7, 2022

SP.22.02 Revision to the Bylaws, Part A.3 and Standing Rule 14 – Setting the Agenda for Senate Meetings

SP.22.03 Proposed Revisions to the Constitution, Article VI, Section 9 (Senate review) and the Bylaws, Part D.1.a – Senate Executive Committee Duties

8. University of Illinois at Chicago, December 1, 2022

cNs,u

Approved proposed revisions to the UIC Senate Bylaws, Article III, Section 2 (c); Article III, Section 5; Article V, Section 2 (b); Article V, Section 3 (b)(2, 3, and 4); Article VI, Section 2 (b)(3); Article VI, Section 3 (b)(4); Article VII, Section 1 (b)(2); and Article VIII, Section 3 (b)(5). The changes reflect a response to the recent UIC Senate governance audit, more accurately represent the duties of the Senate Standing Committees and bring the UIC Senate Bylaws in alignment with current titles and positions.

Approved proposed revisions to the UIC Senate Bylaws, Article V, Section 1 (b)(7) and Article IV, Section 2 (j and l). The changes reflect a request by the Academic Professional Advisory Committee to include an academic professional Senator as a member of the Senate Executive Committee and the addition of the reference to academic professional within the UIC Senate Bylaws Article IV, Section 2 (j and l).

9. University of Illinois at Springfield, December 2, 2022

sNc,u

Res. 52-19 Creation of Online Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice to a Pre-Existing on-Ground Degree

10. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, December 5, 2022

uNc,s

EP.23.022 Report of Administrative Approvals through November 28, 2022

EP.23.023 Report on 110 ILCS 118/5, and the University of Illinois Guaranteed Transfer Admission Program (GTP)

GP.22.04 Guidelines on Departmental Statements

AF.22.04 Analysis of the Senate Committee on General University Policy Guidelines on Departmental Statements

VII. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

VIII. Old Business - Action Items

There was no old business for action.

## IX. Today's Business

### 1. USC Presentations to the Board of Trustees

USC members discussed future presentations to the Board. Professor Burbules will report on academic freedom at the January 26 Board meeting. Other topics were discussed for the remainder of the Board meetings.

### 2. Observer for the next Board of Trustees meeting:

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Chicago

Sandy De Groot

### 3. DPI Bylaws – Review of proposed revisions

Professor Jenkins provided an update on the status of the proposed revisions to the DPI Bylaws that address membership of the DPI Executive Committee.

### 4. DPI Membership

Professor De Groot noted that the DPI membership was not listed on the DPI website as of recently.

USC discussed the need to make sure academic programs come from the universities and not DPI. Some saw a need for coordination of programs among the universities. There was support for requesting an annual report from DPI. USC decided to invite the new DPI Director of Academic Programs, Professor Ranjan Karri, to a USC meeting.

### 5. System Office Taskforces

- Conflict of Commitment and Interest policy

USC decided to discuss the revised policy at its next meeting before sending it to the senates for review. The group was interested in finding out about the changes in federal regulations that led to the revisions. Professor Dallesasse is the USC representative to this group.

- Anti-bullying policy

Professor Weuve is a member of the group working on this policy.

- Background Check policy

Professor Weuve said that she would serve on the committee to review this policy if no one else was interested.

### 6. 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 noted that there were two versions, marked A and B, of the FOIA statement that he and Professor Tolliver drafted. The majority of USC members preferred draft B. Professor Burbules asked USC members to send any feedback they have. Professor Tolliver commented that the document focuses on protection of employees rather than compliance. Professor Burbules added that some employees have been instructed to respond in ways that are not required by law.

#### 7. Discussion of guests to invite to future USC meetings

The group discussed guests to invite.

#### 8. Senates' Audit Reports

Professor De Groote said that she would write a letter to the senates asking whether they have responded to the issues in their audit reports, either by addressing the issues or accepting risk.

#### 9. SURSMAC Dissolution

Professor De Groote said that the State University Retirement System (SURS) dissolved its Members Advisory Committee after the committee voted not to dissolve. USC felt that it should voice its concerns to SURS. Professor De Groote said that she would draft a letter to share with USC and the senates.

#### 10. Evaluate Standing Items on USC agenda Items X. 8 through X. 11

Discussion of this item was postponed to the next meeting.

#### 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

#### X. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

1. 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.

Professor Burbules reported that he had received a response from the UIC Senate. The expanded group that has been working on statutory changes plans to meet on December 21. He reminded everyone that the revisions proposed in ST-83 should be reviewed, amended if needed, and approved. New revisions should not be proposed as part of this process.



2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. OT-381. EO Accountability
9. OT-382. FBBC report back to USC re: tuition/cost of attendance
10. OT-383. Experiences with senate auditors
11. OT-384. Experiences with the Office of Legal Counsel
- [2-11] No new information.
12. University Updates

Professor Jenkins reported on a statement approved by the UIUC Senate's General University Policy Committee, provided an update on the status of ST-83 in the UIUC Senate, and discussed Senate Bill 1, which concerns reproductive rights.

Professor Weuve reported that the UIS Senate had scheduled an additional meeting on January 13, and the provost search is getting underway.

Professor De Groote reported that the UIC Senate is working to revitalize the Faculty Advisory Committee. Negotiations are not going well for those in the colleges that are part of the union.

13. 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.

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

There were no reports.

## XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.