

University Senates Conference  
*Academic Affairs & Research Committee*  
Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, January 20, 2026

PLACE:

University of Illinois Chicago  
Richard Daley Library, Room 1-360  
801 S. Morgan St.  
Chicago, IL

University of Illinois Springfield  
Brookens Library, Room 180G  
One University Plaza  
Springfield, IL

I Hotel & Conference Center  
Excellence Room  
1900 S First St  
Champaign, IL

PRESENT: Clancy, Mi, Symes, Wink

UIC: Donald Wink  
UIS: Hanfu Mi  
UIUC: Kate Clancy, Carol Symes

ABSENT: Linda Herrera, Prasanta Kalita

- I. Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order at 1:57 p.m. by Professor Clancy.
- II. Approval of remote participation  
None
- III. Public Comment  
None
- IV. Approval of the Minutes from December 4, 2025  
Professor Symes made a motion to approve the minutes from December 4, 2025. Professor Wink seconded the motion. No discussion. The minutes were approved with a voice vote by AARC Members.  
  
Yes: Clancy, Mi, Symes, Wink  
Online: None  
  
No: None  
Abstain: None
- V. Today's Business
  - a. Discuss the Spring 2026 Symposium  
AARC discussed letting USC know what has been done so far and about the budget request.

- b. Discuss the agenda for the spring meeting
  - How should the first symposium be framed?
  - How do we relate the public good in our work, inside and outside of the university?
  - Who should be invited to demonstrate how this is enacted?
  - Who are the stakeholders?

How do we move from talking points to operationalization to be clear this isn't just a narrative problem?

Ask:

How are you listening before you speak?

How are our struggles and/or values interconnected?

How can the university agenda be set by the needs/struggles/values of IL? A "change agenda" people answering their questions on/in their work. Let's listen to them.

Farming analogy. How are we helping or hindering?

Bring stakeholders and have a frank discussion.

- c. Discuss the admin work for the spring meeting (materials, bios, etc.)
- d. Discuss the tentative agenda and date for the fall meeting

VI. New Business

- a. Follow-up with EVP Jones
- b. Draft an invitation email
- c. Contingency planning – invites and zoom planning session

VII. Old Business

None

VIII. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Information for Minutes provided by Professor Clancy.

David Perryn  
USC Administration