

University Senates Conference
Academic Affairs & Research Committee
Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, February 3, 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, Herrera, Mi, Symes, Wink

UIC: Donald Wink

UIS: Hanfu Mi

UIUC: Kate Clancy, Linda Herrera, Carol Symes

ABSENT: Prasanta Kalita

Guest: David Perryn

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Professor Clancy.

II. Approval of remote participation

None

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval of the Minutes from January 20, 2026

Professor Clancy made a motion to approve the minutes from January 20, 2026. Professor Mi 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: Herrera

V. Today's Business

a. Review draft proposal for the 2026 Symposium

AARC discussed and edited in real time to get the proposal to something workable.

The committee held a discussion on the main points:

- i. Extending the timeline so that there is a planning meeting in spring to co-create goals with more community members, and the first symposia in fall
- ii. Greater explanation of the history of this effort and the history of this goal (to get the 3 units working together more on “of the moment” topics) within USC, as well as the history of where we landed in terms of a topic (directly inspired by conversation with EVP Jones in October)
- iii. Greater justification for “why now” when it comes to this topic as well as how it links up to the goals and values of the current administration
- iv. Better instrumentalizing the symposia, making it replicable and actionable
- v. Logistics – creating more opportunities for feedback, slowing down the process, opening up the last two symposia to the public

b. Finalize proposal

The proposal is close but not at the final phase to offer to USC. The committee will individually offer comments on the document and get a strong draft finished by close of business on Monday, February 9. The draft will be shared with USC and discussed at the upcoming USC Meeting on February 18. The next steps are:

- i. Obtain feedback from USC at the meeting
- ii. Utilize the next AARC meeting February 18 to continue to plan invitees and guiding questions, as well as brainstorm titles and slides for the upcoming USC presentation to the BOT.
- iii. Meet once between the next two USC meetings (so between 2/18 and 3/24) for a 15-30 minute meeting to finalize proposal and vote to submit it formally to the USC for the 3/24 meeting
- iv. With luck vote in favor at USC on 3/24 and send it immediately to office of EVP Jones
- v. Use remaining meetings of the spring semester to continue planning symposia and BOT presentation

c. Motion to approve proposal to send to USC

No action.

VI. New Business

VII. Old Business

None

VIII. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Information for Minutes provided by Professor Clancy.

David Perryn
USC Administration