

University Senates Conference
Academic Affairs & Research Committee
Minutes

DATE: Thursday, December 4, 2025

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
Loyalty Room
1900 S First St
Champaign, IL

PRESENT: Clancy, Herrera, Kalita, Mi

UIC: None

UIS: Mi

UIUC: Clancy, Herrera, Kalita

ABSENT: Symes, Wink

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. by Professor Clancy.

II. Approval of remote participation

None

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval of the Minutes from November 17, 2025

Professor Kalita made a motion to approve the minutes from November 17, 2025. Professor Mi seconded the motion. No discussion. The minutes were approved with a voice vote by AARC Members.

Yes: Clancy, Herrera, Kalita, Mi

Online: Kalita

No: None

Abstain: None

V. Today's Business

a. Discuss potential dates for Spring 2026 symposium

b. Discuss potential panelists for Spring 2026 symposium

AARC suggested a large range of names, thinking on both the previous prompt of the “meso level” as well as the kinds of people across Illinois the committee feels should have a say. AARC members have discussed school principals, librarians, union reps

or leaders from education-oriented unions (like IFT), an AAUP chapter leader, the people involved with the reparations legislation and genetic genealogy project out of UIUC, a distinguished prof of education who is a scholar/activist at UIS, people from the Center for Community Colleges, Extension, community arts, and park districts.

- c. Discuss the stakeholders/committee members for the full UI System Symposia (in service of thinking through outcomes, report, etc.)

VI. New Business

a. Symposium Budget

AARC discussed the possible budget for each symposium – at the absolute cheapest it would be around \$5000 for the I Hotel & Conference Center, \$5500 for Chicago or Springfield. The committee will ask for more funding given the rise in costs. With the plan for four symposium times at a cost of roughly \$6,000 each, the committee will ask for \$24,000. Upon the completion of the fourth symposium, AARC will need to submit a summative evaluation or report.

- b. Spring Symposia Tentative Schedule: Public Education for the Public Good, Session 1: The urgent needs of the present

10:00-11:00 Introductory remarks and trust-building activity

11:00-12:15 Panel 1: Stakeholders – what are the needs of the moment, what are our shared challenges, how can public universities better serve the public good? Librarians, Principals, union reps

12:15-1:00 lunch

1:00-2:00 Panel 2: People who model UI-community engagement/lead initiatives – what do you see, what is possible, how might we build out connections in fresh ways? AAUP, Hoff, Center for Community Colleges, many on the ground examples we could bring in here

2:00-3:00 Applied/interactive activity -- so what? What are our next steps? Will include short exercise/survey meant to generate ideas for micro level panelists for the fall symposium.

(this is very tentative and for instance it may make sense to have panel 2 occur over lunch in order to extend the length of the panels and the final activity)

Our goals for the first symposium: that it be about building trust, horizontal, egalitarian. That we provide certificates at the end for all participants. That we provide a little IL swag. That we set the stage for the future conversations and use this as a jumping off point to expand the number of people who have a say in how subsequent symposia go.

c. Action items

- i. AARC will continue to review and offer input on the details of this endeavor.
- ii. Professor Clancy will talk to Mr. Perryn and I Hotel & Conference Center about a spring date

- iii. Professor Clancy will write a proposal to EVP Jones and request \$24,000 over 2 years
- iv. After AARC secures funding and a date, then the committee will send out requests for panelists and participants.

VII. Old Business
None

VIII. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Information for Minutes provided by Professor Clancy.

David Perryn
USC Administration