

University Senates Conference
Finance, Budget, & Benefits Committee
Minutes

DATE: Thursday, August 21, 2025

PLACE: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
The President's House
711 W Florida Ave
Urbana, IL

PRESENT: Barnwell, Carmichael, Danziger (online), Erricolo, Hale, Lyons

ABSENT: None

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Professor Lyons.

II. Approval of remote participation

Professor Lyons made a motion to allow Professor Danziger who was attending via Zoom to vote and participate in the meeting. Professor Hale seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion was approved by a voice vote by FBBC Members.

Yes: Barnwell, Carmichael, Erricolo, Hale, Lyons

No: None

Abstain: None

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval of minutes from June 26, 2025

A motion was made by Professor Lyons and seconded by Professor Barnwell to approve the minutes from June 26, 2025. No discussion. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

Yes: Barnwell, Carmichael, Erricolo, Hale, Lyons

Online: Danziger

No: None

Abstain: None

V. Today's Business

a. Select Committee Chair

Motion by Professor Hale to elect Professor Lyons to serve as FBBC Chair. Motion was seconded by Professor Erricolo. Motion was approved by a voice vote and by those attending online.

FBBC Members agreed to establish a rotation mechanism for who will take notes at each meeting.

b. Further information and updates about NIH and other grant funding uncertainty and its impacts

FBBC discussed potential impacts of reductions in Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) on

the university. Members noted that the Joint Association Group (JAG) had proposed two ICR models in July to enhance transparency and provide justification for ICR rates, using 35% as a baseline. The status of JAG's proposal remains uncertain. Members agreed to review what JAG models in more detail.

- c. Updates on any new or pending SURS legislation
Future discussions will be held.
- d. Approaches to studying compensation comparisons
Future discussions will be held.
- e. Establishment of the 2025-2026 FBBC Strategic Plan
FBBC reviewed priority areas identified at its June 26, 2026, meeting to update new members. The committee then discussed priority areas and potential action steps for Fall 2025. Proposed action steps include:
 - i. Action item 1: FBBC emphasized the importance of receiving more frequent updates on the budget and financial operations of each campus and the system overall. As a potential action item, FBBC will consider inviting the local CFO or designee, if unavailable) to future meetings – depending on USC's meeting location – to provide updates on finances, ICR, and related matters. FBBC will consult with USC to determine whether the Conference, as a whole, would also like to receive regular budget and finance updates.
 - 1. Members discussed the September meeting at UIS and the possibility of requesting CFO Jill Wilberg (postponed due to being new in position) to provide information on:
 - a. The evaluation of various units from a budgetary perspective
 - b. The debt reduction program and its impact on academics
 - ii. Action Item 2: Continue discussions on the status of the SURS Tier 2 retirement pension and the Safe Harbor Act
 - iii. Action Item 3: Continue discussions on compensation packages, including comparisons with peer institutions, and explore ways to operations these activities.
 - iv. Action Item 4: Hold a strategic planning meeting at the next session.

VI. New Business

- a. Request that Kelvin Droegemeier be invited to a future FBBC Meeting
No discussion
- b. Request regular input and updates from the Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) at future meetings.
- c. Study impact and comparison of compensation at a future meeting.
Future discussions will be held.

- d.** Propose FBBC discuss SURS Tier 2 and the Social Security Safe Harbor Act
Future discussions will be held.

VII. Old Business – Action Items
None

VIII. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Information for the minutes provided by Professor Erricolo and Professor Lyons.

David Perryn
USC Administration