

University Senates Conference
Finance, Budget, & Benefits Committee
Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, November 11, 2025

PLACE: Mile Square LP Johnson Family Health Center, Room 219
1221 E State St
Rockford, IL

University of Illinois Chicago
College of Pharmacy Building, Room 105
833 S Wood St
Chicago, IL

University of Illinois Springfield
University Hall Building, Room 3070
2180 Vachel Lindsay Dr
Springfield, IL

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
National Center for Supercomputing Applications, Room 3100
1205 W Clark St
Urbana, IL

PRESENT: Barnwell, Carmichael, Danziger, Erricolo, Lyons

ABSENT: Hale

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Professor Lyons.

II. Approval of remote participation

None

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval of minutes from August 21, 2025

A motion was made by Professor Barnwell and seconded by Professor Erricolo to approve the minutes from August 21, 2025. No discussion. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

Yes: Barnwell, Carmichael, Danziger, Erricolo, Lyons
Online: Danziger

No: None
Abstain: None

V. Today's Business

Strategic Planning Session

FBBC held a strategic planning discussion to outline potential topics and invited speakers for

the next three meetings, scheduled for December 4, 2025, January 20, 2026, and February 18, 2026.

Topics and Questions EVP Jones

1. International Enrollment Trends: Provide an update on the challenges faced by all three universities should we face declining international student enrollment.
2. Budget Model and Risk Strategy: Given that the budget model for the three universities relies heavily on tuition revenue, what is the system's risk mitigation strategy?
3. Illinois Affordable/Equitable Act: Provide an update on the status and implications of the Illinois Adequate and Equitable Public University Funding Act.
4. Support for UIS: What actions can the system take to assist UIS in addressing enrollment losses? Given that UIS is currently operating in the red, what is the plan to restore financial stability?

Other Potential Topics and Questions for Speakers:

1. Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) Contingency Planning: If the ICR rate decreases from 60% to 35%, what contingency plans are in place?
2. Cost–Benefit Analysis of Labor Negotiations: What is the cost–benefit analysis of administrative spending on labor negotiations?
3. Health Premium Outlook: Do we anticipate changes to employee health premiums if the subsidies for the Affordable Care Act go away?
4. Compensation Competitiveness: A comparative analysis of compensation levels across peer institutions to ensure we are remaining competitive.
5. Reimbursement Processes: Why are multiple layers of scrutiny required for travel reimbursements? What improvements can be made to better streamline the process?
6. Procurement and Purchasing Complexity: Why is the purchasing process so complex? What opportunities exist to simplify or modernize the process?

Potential Invitees for Upcoming Meetings

1. Paul Ellinger and Nick Jones
To address budgetary strategy, enrollment challenges, and system-level financial planning.
2. Kelvin Droegemeier
To discuss the JAG Fair Model and its implications for ICR funding, including potential system-level support.
3. Jayme Painter or Katie Ross
To provide updates on HR and Benefits, including Tier 2 pension issues and the Safe Harbor Act.

VI. New Business None

VII. Old Business – Action Items
None

VIII. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Information for the minutes provided by Professor Erricolo.

David Perryn
USC Administration