

MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Wednesday, February 21, 2024

PLACE: I Hotel & Conference Center, Knowledge Room
University of Illinois Chicago, College of Pharmacy, Room 145
University of Illinois Springfield, Brookens Library, Room 180G

PRESENT: Burbules, Danziger, De Groote, Erricolo, Funderburg, Hobbs, Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Li, Lyons, Moorhouse, Symes, Tolliver, Weuve (Chair)

Online: Peiravian, Wink

ABSENT: Campbell, Dallesasse

GUESTS: Nicholas Jones, Scott Rice

- I. Committee Meetings (FBBC) – 10:00 a.m.
The FBBC Meeting was held from 10:00 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.
- II. Business Meeting Call to Order
Professor Weuve called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. A discussion was held to determine who should represent USC on the DPI Executive Director Search Committee. Professor Wink was recommended.

Motion for Executive Session

At 10:41a.m. Professor Tolliver made a motion to hold an executive session to discuss University Employment or other related items. The motion was seconded by Professor Jenkins. A brief discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to enter an executive session was approved. The executive session began at 10:44 a.m.

Yes: Burbules, Danziger, Erricolo, Funderburg, Hobbs, Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Li, Lyons, Moorhouse, Peiravian (online), Symes, Tolliver, Weuve (Chair), Wink (online)

No: None

Abstain: None

Material redacted pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2.06d)

Executive Session adjourned at 11:08 a.m. and the regular meeting resumed.

- III. Public Comment
None

- IV. Remarks from USC Chair
In the essence of time, remarks were deferred to the next meeting.

V. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made Professor Burbules and seconded Professor Hobbs to approve the minutes from January 25, 2024. A brief discussion was held. The minutes were approved with a voice vote by USC Members in-person and by roll call vote for members attending on Zoom

Yes: Burbules, Danziger, De Groot, Erricolo, Funderburg, Hobbs, Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Li, Lyons, Moorhouse, Symes, Tolliver, Weuve (Chair)

No: None

Abstain: None

VI. Classification of Senate Minutes

Class I: Matters of policy affecting one campus only. Item is sent to the President and Board of Trustees for action.

Class II: Matters affecting more than one campus. Item is sent to Senate(s) for action, then to President and Board of Trustees. At the time of this classification, the Conference member will file with the recording secretary an accurate final copy of the Senate action.

Class III: Amendments to the University of Illinois Statutes. The procedure is the same as with Class II items. At the time of reporting this classification, the Conference member will file with the recording secretary an accurate final copy of the Senate action.

Class N: This designation requires no USC action but alerts one or more Senates to an item of interest from the originating Senate. The "N" is preceded by and followed by a lower-case letter(s); c = Chicago; s = Springfield; u = Urbana-Champaign; usc = University Senates Conference. Example: "cNs,u" means that a matter has come up in the Chicago Senate, which may be of interest to Springfield and Urbana-Champaign.

A. The following items were classified I by the University Senates Conference:

1. University of Illinois Chicago, January 31, 2024

PR-24.19 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Nursing

PR-24.20 Proposal to Revise the Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Completion Program

PR-24.21 Proposal to Eliminate the Master of Arts in Economics/Master of Business Administration Joint Degree

PR-24.22 Proposal to Revise the Master of Science in Marketing

PR-24.23 Proposal to Revise and Rename the Concentration in Global and Multicultural Marketing in the Master of Science in Marketing

PR-24.24 Proposal to Revise the Minor in Linguistics

PR-24.25 Proposal to Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Linguistics

PR-24.26 Proposal to Establish the Minor in Health Information Management

PR-24.27 Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology

2. University of Illinois Springfield, January 26, 2024

Res. 53-18 Proposed Substantial Revision to the Core Requirements in the Teacher Education Degree Programs

Res. 53-19 Proposed Substantial Revision to the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education

Res. 53-20 Proposed Substantial Revision to the Bachelor of Arts in Secondary English Education

Res. 53-21 Proposed Substantial Revision to the Bachelor of Arts in Middle Grades Education

Res. 53-22 Proposed Substantial Revision to the Bachelor of Arts in Secondary History Education

Res. 53-23 Proposed Change to the Name of the Department of English and Modern Languages

Res. 53-24 Elimination of the Spanish Minor

3. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, February 5, 2024

EP.24.052 Eliminate the Concentration in Chemistry Teaching Option in the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Chemistry in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

EP.24.055 Establish the Master of Science in Game Development in the School of Information Sciences and the Graduate College

EP.24.056 Establish the Concentration in Art in the Master of Science in Game Development in the School of Information Sciences and the Graduate College

- EP.24.057 Establish the Concentration in Design in the Master of Science in Game Development in the School of Information Sciences and the Graduate College
- EP.24.058 Establish the Concentration in Narrative in the Master of Science in Game Development in the School of Information Sciences and the Graduate College
- EP.24.059 Establish the Concentration in Production in the Master of Science in Game Development in the School of Information Sciences and the Graduate College
- EP.24.060 Establish the Concentration in Programming in the Master of Science in Game Development in the School of Information Sciences and the Graduate College
- EP.24.061 Revise the Bachelor of Science in Media and Cinema Studies in the College of Media
- EP.24.062 Revise the Joint Program in the Master of Business Administration in Business Administration and the Master of Science in Accountancy in the Gies College of Business and the Graduate College
- EP.24.063 Revise the Master of Business Administration in Business Administration in the Gies College of Business and the Graduate College
- EP.24.064 Establish the Campus Graduate Certificate in Agribusiness and Sustainable Food Production Economics in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College
- EP.24.065 Establish the Campus Graduate Certificate in Dairy Nutrition for Udder Success in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College
- EP.24.066 Establish the Campus Graduate Certificate in Land, Agriculture and Alternative Investing in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College
- EP.24.067 Revise Banner Descriptors that Reference “Probation” and Revise Section 3-110 of the Student Code to Reflect This Revision and to Include Graduate Students

B. The following items were classified N by the University Senates Conference:

1. University of Illinois Chicago, January 31, 2024

First Reading: Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 7a – Sabbatical Leaves and Unpaid Leaves of Absence for Members of the Faculty (ST-24.01)

First Reading: Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II, Sections 3a(1) and 3a(2) – Faculty Role in Governance (ST-24.02)

2. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, February 5, 2024

- EP.24.051 Report of Administrative Approvals through January 29, 2024
- EP.24.053 Report of Temporary Suspensions through January 29, 2024
- EP.24.054 Report of Administrative Updates to Program of Study Tables
- EP.24.068 Interim Guidance Regarding Implementation of the Illinois Board of Higher Education 40 Upper-Division Hour Criterion
- HD.24.10 Nomination for Honorary Degree Award – Gang
- SP.24.01 Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article IV – Student Representation
- SP.24.06 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.9 – Committee on Elections and Credentials (membership)

A motion was made by Professor Jenkins and seconded by Professor Kalita to approve the Classification of Senate Minutes. The Classification of Senate Minutes was approved by a voice vote for USC Members in-person.

- Yes: Burbules, Danziger, De Groot, Erricolo, Funderburg, Hobbs, Jenkins, Kalita, Leff, Li, Lyons, Moorhouse, Symes, Tolliver, Weuve (Chair)
- No: None
- Abstain: None

VII. Old Business – Action Items
 None

VIII. Today’s Business

1. USC Presenters and Observers for Board of Trustees Meetings
 Professor Weuve encouraged USC to consider a topic and presenter for May 16.

Date	Location	Presenter	Observer	From
3/28/2024	Springfield	Wink	Weuve	Springfield
5/16/2024	Urbana		Tolliver	Urbana
7/11/2024	Chicago	Weuve	Weuve	Chicago

2. Discussion of guests to invite to future meetings
 Professor Weuve mentioned the upcoming guests and potential adjustments to the USC Agenda to accommodate schedules of presenters. It was requested to add an additional discussion period to the agenda on April 18.
3. BOT Observer Reports
 Professor Weuve held an interactive discussion the structure of BOT Observer Reports. The goal is to be concise when highlighting the most important items

from a USC perspective related to items across the System. Professor Weuve will develop a template.

USC mentioned that the current USC *Bylaws* do not reflect that USC has representation at the University of Illinois Board of Trustees Meetings, and that part of the function is to represent USC. Professor Weuve suggested this be shared with the incoming USC Chair for consideration.

USC inquired about developing a statement on statements at the next meeting that may develop into a BOT Presentation.

4. Appoint a Nominating Committee and Chair

Professor Weuve shared insight on the USC Nominating Committee. Professor Jenkins mentioned the past practice of rotating the Chair and Vice-Chair. Since the current USC Chair is from UIS, and the prior from UIC, the next Chair would be from UIUC. The current Vice-Chair is from UIUC, and the prior was from UIS, so the next Vice Chair would be from UIC. While past practice, this is not part of the USC *Bylaws*. Senate elections for UIC and UIUC take place in April, while UIS takes place in May.

The following USC Members were selected to serve on the 2024-2025 AY Nominating Committee:

- a. Professor Weuve, Chair (UIS)
- b. Professor Danziger (UIC)
- c. Professor Moorhouse (UIUC)

5. NC-2025: USC Members and Vacancies 2024-2025 AY

The list was provided for future consideration.

IX. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

1. ST-83. Revisions to the *Statutes* – newly proposed revisions. Sent to Executive Vice President Wilson 05/01/2020. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 following ST- 77) transmitted to UIS, UIC, and UIUC Senates 09/02/2021. UIC responded with Collated Comments 01/12/2022. USC sent a request for bifurcation and clarification to UIC on 02/08/2022. UIC Senate Request for Modifications 12/01/2022. The proposed statutory revisions have been transmitted to UIS, UIC, and UIUC Senates. The UIC Senate has sent its response.

Professor Weuve shared that the UIS Senate is planning to address ST-83 on Friday. Professor Jenkins reported that ST-83 should be back from the University Statutes and Senate Procedures on April 1. Professor Burbules reported that SGC could provide a synthesized statement from USC once the input has been received by USC.

2. ST-87 Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article I, Section 5 – Chancellors and Vice Presidents, Article II, Section 3a (1) – Faculty Role in Governance, and Article III, Section 1g – The University. Passed UIUC Senate 11/15/2021. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates on 03/02/2022.

3. ST-89 Proposed Revisions to the Statutes, Article IV, Section 1 – The Department, Section 2 – Department Organized with a Chair (Section 2b – Department Organized with a Chair), Section 3 – Department Organized with a Head (Section 3b – Department Organized with a Head), and Section 4 – Change of Department Administrative Organization. Passed UIUC Senate 04/24/2023. Transmitted to UIC and UIS 06/21/2023.
4. OT-387. University of Illinois System Values and Principles. Transmitted to the Senates on 03/27/2023 with advice requested to USC by 05/15/2023. 06/26/2023 requesting an extension through Fall 2023. Revised version sent to Senates with feedback requested by 01/17/2024. UIUC has provided feedback.

Professor Burbules indicated that SGC would meet to synthesize a statement for USC after the feedback from UIS is received.

5. SI-1. Updates from each University
 - a. University of Illinois-Chicago
No update.
 - b. University of Illinois-Springfield
No update.
 - c. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Professor Jenkins mentioned that everything is moving along.
6. SI-2. Updates from Standing Committees:
 - a. AARC
Professor Jenkins reported that AARC did not meet today. AARC had previously discussed the presentation by Professor Symes to the BOT in January on Academic Freedom.
 - b. FBBC
Professor Lyons mentioned that FBBC is meeting with VP Walsh on March 26. The committee will develop questions and send them to Mr. Perryn. The questions will be shared with the Executive Committee so there are no duplicate questions. USC will also hold a meeting with VP Walsh on March 26.
 - c. SGC
No update.
7. SI-3. Updates from External Groups with USC Representatives:
 - a. Data Strategy System-wide Task Force
No update.
 - b. Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee
Professor Jenkins reported that the last DPI Executive Committee Meeting was cancelled.

- c. Enrollment Management Policy Council
No update.
- d. President's Executive Leadership Program
Professor Lyons shared that PELP will meet next week in Springfield.
- e. System-wide Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Council
No update.
- f. University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council
No update.
- g. Workplace Behavior Policy
Professor Weuve mentioned that feedback is forthcoming from Ms. Painter, Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, University of Illinois System.

Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. and resumed at 1:00 p.m.

X. Meeting with Mr. Scott Rice

Professor Weuve welcomed Mr. Rice, University General Counsel, who joined the meeting by Zoom.

Mr. Rice has worked for the University of Illinois for 19 years. University Counsel is the only legal service provider to the University due to the Illinois Supreme Court. Mr. Rice directly reports the Board of Trustees and President. Legal services are provided to the System, UIC, UIS, and UIUC. There are embedded attorneys at UIC, and UIUC, with one at UIS.

Mr. Rice spoke about academic freedom and freedom of speech. Academic freedom is discussed in Article X of the *Statutes*. USC inquired about departmental position statements and the challenges. Mr. Rice mentioned they normally learn about such statements upon receiving a complaint and shared that one of the challenges with these statements is that they can appear as an institutional statement. Besides preserving academic freedom, public safety is a consideration that is also important.

Mr. Rice reported that the UIUC Senate had provided a statement that was shared with the UIC and UIS Senates. President Killeen sent a letter to each Chancellor reminding them to make every effort to convey they are not speaking for the institution to stay open and welcoming for all. Mr. Rice reminded USC of the Ethics Act that specifies proper usage of University Resources.

USC inquired about writing its own statement on statements and having it reviewed by Mr. Rice. The opportunity was welcomed. Mr. Rice spoke about best practices.

Mr. Rice encouraged engagement early on, if possible, to be more proactive rather than waiting. Having hired new attorneys, he expressed aspirations of returning to

USC with some of his team to speak more about the behind-the-scenes efforts. He also plans to interact in other areas such as the Council of Deans, so that his team can have a better opportunity to meet others within the University.

Professor Weuve expressed appreciation to Mr. Rice for attending at 1:53 p.m.

XI. Meeting with Executive Vice President Jones

Professor Weuve welcomed EVP Jones and expressed appreciation for attending. EVP Jones joined from UIS at 2:08 p.m.

A brief update was provided to EVP Jones regarding the consideration by USC to draft a statement on statements. USC raised concerns with potential outcomes if a department uses a website to convey a stance and how this could appear to be an institutional statement since departmental websites are owned by the University. Discussion continued regarding the approach other institutions are taking. UIC is forming a committee. UIUC is working with the Campus Administrative Manual and the Chancellor's Office to translate the UIUC Policy Guideline.

Motion for Executive Session

At 2:16 p.m. Professor Weuve asked for a motion to hold an executive session to discuss University Employment or other related items. Professor Leff made the motion, and it was seconded by Professor Jenkins. A brief discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to enter an executive session was approved. The executive session began at 2:18 p.m.

Yes: Burbules, Danziger, De Groote, Erricolo, Funderburg, Hobbs, Jenkins, Leff, Li, Lyons, Moorhouse, Tolliver, Weuve (Chair)

No: None

Abstain: None

XII. Executive Session with Executive Vice President Jones

Material redacted pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2.06d)

Executive Session adjourned at 2:41 p.m. and the regular meeting resumed.

XIII. Regular Session Resumes

EVP Jones reported that he attended the Governor's State of the State and Budget Address at the capital. The Governor remains committed to higher education. The proposed appropriation is for a 2% increase for higher education and the operating budget along with an additional 10 million dollars for MAP Funding. The Federal Reserve is expected to reduce interest rates later this year.

EVP Jones spoke about the online education efforts of today and the past. The System Task Group on Online Strategy was formed to offer a collaborative opportunity to develop recommendations to support the faculty across the University

of Illinois institutions. Enrollment from traditional sources will be challenged going forward. It's important to keep in mind that there are people in Illinois who have not completed their degree. What could be done to support teachers and students in urban and rural environments that may not have access to the courses that they need to help make them college ready?

EVP Jones spoke about the advantages of the infrastructure being built for faculty so they can focus on the programmatic portion of education. In his previous experience, faculty controlled the material. The institution provided the foundational infrastructure. This helped avoid the additional cost of infrastructure and upkeep. EVP Jones mentioned the approach would be to build from the ground up, with representation from UIC, UIS, UIUC, DPI, and IIN. This could result in offering cross university degrees.

Professor Weuve expressed appreciation to EVP Jones for attending at 3:24 p.m.

XIV. USC Committee of a Whole Discussion: Follow-up items from morning session

USC discussed the best approach to a statement on statements from USC and reviewed: <https://diversity.uiowa.edu/resources/guiding-principles-free-speech-and-dei-statements/public-statements-university-iowa>

XV. Adjournment – Next meeting will be held March 26, 2024, at UIC, UIS, & UIUC
Meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

David Perryn
USC Administration