

**UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

October 29, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

The USC Executive Meeting was held in the following public locations:

University of Illinois Chicago  
Richard Daley Library, Room 1-360  
801 S Morgan St  
Chicago, IL, 60607

University of Illinois Springfield  
University Hall Building, Room 2010  
2180 Vachel Lindsay Dr  
Springfield, IL 62703

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Henry Administration Building, Room 380  
506 S Wright St  
Urbana, IL 61801

The next USC meeting will be held on November 17, 2025, at UIS.

Present: Sandra De Groote, Lynn Fisher, Angela Lyons, Hanfu Mi, Joyce Tolliver, Donald Wink

Absent: None

I. Call to Order

Professor De Groote called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Mr. Perryn called the role.

Members present by location:

UIC: Sandra De Groote, Donald Wink

UIS: Lynn Fisher, Hanfu Mi

UIUC: Angela Lyons, Joyce Tolliver

III. Approval of remote participation

None

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Approval of Minutes from October 3, 2025

A motion was made by Professor Fisher and seconded by Professor Tolliver to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2025, meeting. No discussion. The minutes were approved by a roll call vote.

Yes: De Groote, Fisher, Lyons, Mi, Tolliver

No: None

Abstain: None



VI. Discussion of Topics for President Killeen & EVP Jones

Professor De Groote inquired with EC about topics for the next meeting:

a. November 17, 2025

- i. Conversations have been occurring by faculty about the recent changes to scholarships, hiring practices and removal of DEI statements from promotion and tenure dossiers. What recommendations can be made at the campus level to support recent action by the UI System?
- ii. Letter to the chancellors concerning changes to promotion and tenure
- iii. Will there be a request to correct an [article](#) by Inside Higher Education?
- iv. International initiatives and mechanisms that would allow UIC, UIS, and UIUC to be more involved
- v. Update on online learning and the proposed initiative aimed at expanding inline and hybrid education, with consideration of non-traditional learners.
- vi. System initiatives related to artificial intelligence, academic integrity and ethical standards

Professor Wink joined the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

b. December 4, 2025

Topics for President Killeen, EVP Jones, and Dean Bashir for the December 4 USC Meeting will be determined at the November 17 USC Meeting.

VII. Topics for Paul Weinberger and Jennifer Creasey

Professor De Groote inquired about topics for federal and state relations. EC suggested learning more about how to communicate with others when they have different beliefs. EC expressed interest in finding more ways to support the efforts of the government relations team.

a. Federal update

- i. Latest update on legislative affairs and government relations

b. State update

- i. Latest update on legislative affairs and government relations
- ii. Status of the proposed Equity Funding Bill and any anticipated developments to be aware of

VIII. Discuss request from Robin Kar, Associate Dean for Curricular Innovation at the UIUC College of Law

Professor De Groote shared the email dated October 24, 2025, from Robin Kar, requesting conditional approval from USC of a new online MS in Law degree at UIUC. EC held an interactive discussion on this matter. This type of request usually is sent to USC through the senate as part of the Classification of Senate Minutes portion of the USC Meeting. This item has not been through the UIUC Senate so it cannot be sent to USC in advance for any type of approval. Professor De Groote will respond to the email advising that the next UIUC Senate Meeting is November 10. It



would be appropriate for the item to be sent after approval by the UIUC Senate, to USC. It was recommended that the item be added to the UIUC Senate Agenda.

IX. USC Business Agenda Items

EC discussed the turnaround time required for USC Presentations to the BOT to be submitted. Mr. Perryn will add additional dates to the date grid on the USC Meeting Agenda.

X. Old Business – Action Items

None

XI. New Business

None

XII. Guests to consider inviting for future meetings

EC suggested inviting Gretchen Lohman, Senior Director, Academic Programs & Partnerships, UI System, to discuss transfer programs and opportunities to help in the recruitment process.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Professor De Groote at 2:22 p.m.

David Perryn  
USC Administration