

Minutes
Urbana-Champaign Senate Meeting
September 10, 2012

A regular meeting of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate was called to order at 3:16 pm on the 3rd floor of the Levis Center with Chancellor Phyllis Wise presiding and Professor Emeritus Kenneth E. Andersen as Parliamentarian.

Approval of Minutes

09/10/12-01 The minutes from April 23, 2012 and April 30, 2012 were approved as written.

Senate Executive Committee Report

Faculty Senator Matthew Wheeler (ACES) and Chair of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) gave the following report.

At the July 16 SEC meeting the SEC acted on behalf of the Senate in supporting the Chancellor to move forward with the partnership with Coursera, a MOOC (massive online open course) provider.

The Chancellor's strategic planning meeting in May was well attended. The campus strategic plan was solidified and included significant faculty input.

Student senator Shao Guo (DGS), faculty senator Joyce Tolliver (LAS), and faculty senator Michael Biehl (VMED) served as tellers for the meeting.

09/10/12-02 Floor privileges were granted for Professor Emeritus Peter Loeb to speak to SP.12.06.

Presentations

Coursera

Faculty senator Nicholas Burbules (EDUC) expressed his support for finding new models of delivering course content and e-learning in general. A survey on the Chicago campus showed that students were ready for more technology than was currently offered. E-learning should not be about revenue generation, but rather providing excellence. Partnering with Coursera is only one piece of a wider e-learning strategy.

Burbules introduced Deanna Raineri, Associate Dean in Technology Support in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS). Raineri gave an overview of Coursera and the resources it provides as a partner.

Coursera is a MOOC (Massive Online Open Course) provider. Anyone with internet service can access these online courses. Coursera is a private company. If a student wants a certificate of successful completion, the student must pay Coursera for the certificate. Coursera does not own the course content, and the courses are free. Copyright clearance is up to the course provider.

There are currently ten Illinois courses on Coursera, and there is significant enrollment already. These courses are not the same as on campus tuition generating credit earning courses. Coursera courses have limited instructor/student interaction. These are 6-8 week courses. The students taking these courses are not the same students that are attending on-campus courses. These ten courses were existing courses that had been vetted through already existing processes.

A campus process for determining which courses are offered on Coursera will be determined by the campus Coursera review committee. The Coursera review committee will review all courses before they can be taken through Coursera. The committee is formulating a process to propose Coursera courses. The Chancellor has assembled teams to address financial, legal, procurement and technology issues.

Over the summer Chancellor Wise requested SEC's assistance in determining possible faculty concerns. SEC Chair Wheeler formed a task force and a report was issued from the task force, which will be shared with the full Senate. Due to the rapidly changing e-learning environment and the ability to dissolve the Coursera partnership at any time with no cost or damage to the campus, the SEC Coursera task force report supported the partnership. This was endorsed by the SEC and forwarded as advice to the Chancellor.

A robust discussion of support and concerns followed the presentation.

PowerPoint slides from the Coursera presentation can be found at:

http://www.senate.illinois.edu/120910_coursera.pdf

US Ignite

Professor Jon Gant from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) presented information on the UC2B and US Ignite initiative. UC2B (Urbana Champaign Big Broadband) is an intergovernmental consortium that includes the University of Illinois and the cities of Urbana and Champaign and is dedicated to building and operating an open-access fiber-optic broadband network throughout the Champaign-Urbana area. UC2B is a fiber optic infrastructure that is the fastest, most state-of-the-art fiber-optic network communication technology available. This is a symmetrical service; upload and download speeds are the same. This project is funded in part by a federal grant that ends in January 2013.

UC2B is a founding partner of US Ignite. US Ignite is an initiative to promote US leadership in developing applications and services for ultra-fast broadband and software-defined networks.

PowerPoint slides from the US Ignite presentation can be found at:

http://www.senate.illinois.edu/120910_usignite.pdf

Chancellor's Remarks

Chancellor Phyllis Wise welcomed senators back to campus. A new leadership team was put in place over the summer. Illinois has a new Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Ilesanmi Adesida, a new Vice Chancellor for Research, and new coaches and athletic director. The distractions from last year are over and Chancellor Wise looks forward to working with the Senate this year.

Chair of the Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits Committee, John Kindt notified the Senate of Constitutional Amendment #49. This amendment if passed could eliminate the constitutional protection of benefits. The SUAA (State University Annuitant Association) website, www.suaa.org, has additional information about amendment #49.

Questions/Discussion

No questions/discussion.

Consent Agenda

Hearing no objections, the following proposals were pronounced approved by unanimous consent.

09/10/12-03 EP.13.02* Proposal to terminate the Master of Science in General Engineering, in the Department of Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering, College of Engineering

Proposals for Action (enclosed)

09/10/12-04 CC.13.03* Nominations for Membership on Standing Committees of the Senate and the Military Education Council

In absence of a Committee on Committees Chair, SEC Chair Wheeler on behalf of the Committee on Committees, moved approval of the slate of nominees on CC.13.03. There were no floor nominations and nominations were declared closed.

09/10/12-05 By voice vote, the slate of nominees on CC.13.03 was approved.

09/10/12-06 GP.12.05* Transfer the Beckman Institute from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

General University Policy (GUP) Chair Nicholas Burbules noted that center and institute changes could be handled by the Educational Policy Committee, but because of their workload GUP will handle these types of proposals on a trial basis. Either way the proposals will come to the full Senate for review. GUP had a series of formal discussions regarding this proposal and a town hall meeting was held last year. There were no significant concerns voiced.

On behalf of the General University Policy (GUP) committee, Chair Nicholas Burbules moved approval of GP.12.05.

09/10/12-07 By voice, the motion to approve GP.12.05 passed.

09/10/12-08 GP.12.10* Policy Governing Electronic Surveys and Questionnaires

General University Policy (GUP) Chair Nicholas Burbules reintroduced the proposal and noted that the previously requested background statement has now been included. A student has also been added to the review board.

This proposal does not affect groups surveying their own members. This proposal limits unsolicited requests for large scale surveys using the campus network.

On behalf of the General University Policy (GUP) committee, Chair Nicholas Burbules moved approval of GP.12.10.

A robust discussion followed. Chair Burbules indicated his willingness to share the comments and concerns with the GUP committee.

Faculty Senator Al Kagan (LIBR) moved to send GP.12.10 back to committee with the recommendation to revise the proposal in the light of the objections raised. The motion was seconded.

09/10/12-09 By voice, the motion to send GP.12.10 back to the General University Policy committee passed.

09/10/12-10 GP.12.11* Proposal to Temporarily Establish the Center for Digital Inclusion

On behalf of the General University Policy (GUP) committee, Chair Nicholas Burbules moved approval of GP.12.11.

09/10/12-11 By voice, the motion to approve GP.12.11 passed.

Proposed Revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws (First Reading; Information)

09/10/12-12 SP.12.06* Revisions to the *Constitution* and the *Bylaws* Regarding Conduct of Senate Meetings and Formulation of Meeting Agendas

University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) Chair William Maher presented SP.12.06 for a first reading.

Emeritus Professor Peter Loeb voiced concerns about Senate agendas and compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act. USSP Chair Maher indicated his willingness to share the comments with the committee.

Faculty Senator Matthew Wheeler (ACES) moved to carry any remaining agenda items not addressed by 5:15 pm today to the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting. The motion was seconded.

09/10/12-13 By voice, the motion to carry any items not addressed by 5:15pm today to the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting passed.

Faculty Senator Al Kagan (LIBR) moved that Professor Loeb's comments be sent to USSP and SEC. The motion was seconded.

09/10/12-14 By voice, the motion to send Professor Loeb's comments to USSP and SEC passed.

Reports for Information

09/10/12-15 HE.12.08* FAC/IBHE Report – May 18, 2012

09/10/12-16 HE.12.09* FAC/IBHE Report–June 15, 2012

09/10/12-17 SC.13.02* Results of the Election of Student Members of the Committee on Committees

09/10/12-18 SC.13.03* BOT Observer Report – July 18-19, 2012 – Faculty Senator Joyce Tolliver (LAS) noted that a revised report will replace the original report included in the Senate packet. The revised report will be posted online.

09/10/12-19 SC.13.04* SEC Statement on Faculty Representation and Shared Governance

09/10/12-20 SC.13.05* BOT Observer Report – May 31, 2012

09/10/12-21 SUR.12.02* SURSMAC – May 8, 2012

09/10/12-22 UC.13.01* USC Report – August 23, 2012

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:14pm.

Jenny Roether, Senate Clerk

*Filed with the Senate Clerk and incorporated by reference in these minutes.