

Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus
November 16, 2015
Minutes

A regular meeting of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate was called to order at 3:10 pm in the Illini Room A at the Illini Union with Interim Chancellor Barbara Wilson presiding and with Professor Emeritus H. George Friedman, Jr. and Lecturer Sara Benson as Parliamentarians.

Approval of Minutes

11/16/15-01 The minutes from October 19, 2015 were approved as distributed.

Senate Executive Committee Report

Gay Miller (VMED), faculty senator and Chair of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) reported that President Killeen plans to announce the chair of the search committee to advise the President on the selection of a chancellor soon. The search process is moving at a slow, steady, and careful pace.

The ad hoc committee related to the University Background Check Policy and charged by Vice President for Academic Affairs Christophe Pierre has been meeting weekly since the last Senate meeting. The ad hoc committee has also met with the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP) and the Senate Committee on Equal Opportunity and Inclusion to share proposed revisions that the committee drafted to the Background Check Policy. VP Pierre's Committee plans to submit the proposed revisions to the Board of Trustees (BOT) at the January 21 BOT meeting.

Chair Miller served as the BOT Observer for the Urbana Senate at the November 12, 2015 meeting of the BOT. Miller gave a summary of the meeting. A report by Vice President and CFO Walter Knorr noted that the state budget impasse continues. The governor proposed a budget cut of \$209 million or 31.5% reduction in GRF (general revenue funds), and the Legislative proposal was a cut of \$57 million or 8.5% reduction in GRF. The state has paid the fiscal year 2015 outstanding payments. The OIG (Office of Inspector General) finished the NSF (National Science Foundation) audit of \$435 million and only disallowed \$102,000. The MAP (Monetary Assistance Program) provides grants to more than 7,000 University of Illinois students. A large percentage of the student recipients are African American and Hispanic. The BOT signed a resolution urging an end to the state budget impasse.

On behalf of John Kindt, Chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits, Chair Miller announced that the CMS (Central Management System) dependent verification deadline has been extended to November 19. Please check your email and your US mail for information if you have not verified your dependents. If dependents are not verified by November 19, they will lose coverage.

11/16/15-02 Floor Privileges were granted to the following individuals requesting to speak to RS.16.05: Harry Liebersohn, History; Bill Kinderman, Music; Bruce Rosenstock, Religion; Susan Davis, Communication

11/16/15-03 Tellers for the meeting were faculty senators H.F. (Bill) Williamson (LAS) and Joyce Tolliver (LAS), and student senator Mitchell Dickey (LAS).

Chancellor's Remarks

Interim Chancellor Barbara Wilson asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the terrorist attacks that occurred in Paris, France on Friday, November 13, 2015.

Wilson expounded on Chair Miller's comments regarding the budget by adding that President Killeen continues to engage with Illinois legislators and hopes for a budget in January 2016. Funding cuts continue at the department and administrative levels.

Dismissing the Athletic Director without cause was a very difficult decision. The funding for the buyout came out of the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics (DIA) budget. Specifically the media rights and ticket sales, not from the academic budget. A search for a new Athletic Director will begin as soon as possible.

A settlement has been agreed upon between the University and Dr. Steven Salaita. The process of arriving at the settlement has been long and very involved. Both parties have signed the agreement. The settlement is a big step forward to removal of the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) censure. Discussions with the local and national AAUP chapters are ongoing to determine what actions need to be taken to lift the censure.

A student organized vigil was held on the Quad largely by our African American students. Work will continue with students on these critical issues of diversity. Another vigil is scheduled this week and Wilson encouraged attendance at the vigil.

President Killeen is holding a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 3:00 pm in the Beckman Auditorium. The topics of where higher education is going and the university-wide strategic planning process will be discussed. Strategic plans for all three campuses will flow into the larger university-wide strategic plan.

Questions/Discussion

Faculty senator Levine (LAS) expressed his dismay of the outcome of the Salaita case.

Faculty senator Rosenstein (MDA) noted that the DIA budget partially consists of three separate mandatory fees to DIA. Chancellor Wilson added that the student fees are voted on by the students. Wilson also mentioned that the search process for the hiring of an Athletic Director would begin as soon as possible.

A couple of students spoke in support of the diversity vigil that was held and the upcoming vigil to support France on Wednesday at 6:00 pm on the Quad. The vigil has shed some light on the racial micro-aggressions on campus. Faculty senator McDuffie (LAS) expressed his concern for the well-being of African American faculty and students on this campus.

Consent Agenda

- 11/16/15-04 EP.16.26* Proposal to Revise the 2015-2016 Academic Calendar
- 11/16/15-05 EP.16.27* Proposal to Establish an Undergraduate Major in Asian American Studies in the Department of Asian American Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- 11/16/15-06 EP.16.29* Proposal to Revise the Major in Agricultural Leadership and Sciences Education in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
- 11/16/15-07 EP.16.30* Proposal to Rename the Graduate School of Library and Information Science to the School of Information Sciences

Faculty senator Ordal (MED) requested EP.16.30 be removed from the consent agenda and requested a discussion. A short discussion followed including Dean Renear reiterating the reasoning outlined in the proposal, consistency with changes in the field.

- 11/16/15-08 The motion to adopt proposal EP.16.30 was approved by a show of hands. There were 71 affirmative votes and 46 negative votes.

Proposed Revisions to the *University Statutes*

- 11/16/15-09 SP.15.21* Revisions to the *Statutes* to Implement the Recommendation of the Hiring Policies and Procedures Review Committee (First Reading; Information)

On behalf of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP), Chair William Maher introduced proposal SP.15.21 and noted that proposed changes to the *Statutes* requires two readings. This is the first reading of proposal SP.15.21. Proposal SP.15.21 was drafted in response to a resolution that came before the Senate in March 2015 endorsing the final report from the Hiring Policies and Procedures Review Committee. Additional discussion followed.

Chancellor Wilson was asked to give her opinion on the proposal. Wilson replied that there are several different paths going forward and welcomed further discussion. Several senators expressed concern that if the proposal was approved that the BOT could reverse any delegated authority. Maher added that the proposed revisions conforms to past practice. The proposed language seemed to be the option most palatable to the BOT. USSP Committee member Friedman added that there is no way to prevent the BOT from taking action or not taking action. The BOT is empowered by the law.

USSP Committee member Sandy Jones responded to questions concerning specialized faculty. Jones stated that specialized faculty do not go before the BOT for approval. Specialized faculty are already approved by delegated authority.

Other comments included a request to add “directors” as one of the university officers, and for more precise and direct language. Maher noted that the USSP Committee will review the language again in light of all the questions and comments made today.

Center for Advanced Study Update

Peter Schiffer, Vice Chancellor for Research presented information on the proposed changes for the Center for Advanced Study (CAS). Several faculty members expressed concern that the proposed changes would result in a degradation in the quality of the CAS programs. The MillerComm lectures are partially supported by an endowment, but the endowment only provides \$110,000 per year. The endowment funds only cover a fraction of the expenses. Schiffer noted the proposed changes would significantly reduce overhead costs while providing the same level and quality of programming. The number of fellows will remain the same.

Proposal

11/16/15-10 RS.16.05* Resolution on the Process to Change the Status of the Center for Advanced Study

Faculty senator Murav (LAS) introduced resolution RS.16.05 and moved approval. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. Murav spoke about the need for transparency when decisions to make significant changes to a program are considered. When *Standing Rule 13* does not apply, there should be a process for open discussion. The resolution calls for an open discussion and that has started here.

11/16/15-11 The motion to adopt resolution RS.16.06 was approved by voice.

Academic Input on Background Checks

Matt Finkin, Director, Program in Comparative Labor and Employment Law & Policy, discussed the impact of the University Background Check Policy. Finkin suggested that the BOT should have consulted with the faculty before the policy was put into place.

To conduct a background check through a commercial vendor, the candidate must agree to the check. An un-redacted version of the report is sent to the candidate to correct any errors. An employment offer is made contingent on the background check. If the candidate now has the employment offer taken away, what are the hearing obligations to the candidate? Other questions posed include – what happens if a candidate is rejected based on the check? Are there means of challenging the policy? The answer to these questions does not appear to be clear at this time.

Finkin noted that if the company conducting the background check made an error, the company providing the information would be liable. Finkin added that there is no way to measure how

many people will not apply to the university because of this policy. Finkin felt that the background check information would only really show if a candidate was a potential public relations issue.

Senators requested the recommendations for changes to the policy be available for review prior to submission to the BOT. Chair Miller will make an effort to accommodate the request to review the document prior to submission to the BOT.

Illinois Climate Action Plan

Ben McCall, Associate Director for Campus Sustainability

11/16/15-12 Chair Miller made a motion to postpone the Illinois Climate Action Plan presentation until the December 7, 2015 Senate meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by voice.

Reports for Information

11/16/15-13 EP.16.31* EPC Administrative Approvals through November 2, 2015

New Business

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Jenny Roether, Senate Clerk

*Filed with the Senate Clerk and incorporated by reference in these minutes.
A video recording of these proceedings can be found at <https://go.illinois.edu/senate>