

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**  
**URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**  
(Final; Information)

UC.13.04      Report on the November 28, 2012 meeting of the University Senates Conference held at the University of Illinois Springfield Campus.

The Conference membership list for 2012-13 can be found here:  
<http://www.usc.uillinois.edu/membership.cfm>

The agenda for this meeting can be found here:  
<http://www.usc.uillinois.edu/Documents/AGN-1128.12.pdf>

The Conference was joined by President Robert Easter, Vice-President of Academic Affairs Christophe Pierre, and Executive Director of Governmental Relations Katherine Laing. UIS Chancellor Susan Koch joined the Conference for lunch. The meeting was convened at 10:00 AM.

**I. REMARKS FROM THE USC CHAIR:**

Chair Burbules encouraged chairs of the four Conference committees to contact the chairpersons of their respective Board of Trustees committees and invite them to a Conference committee meeting during the spring semester. (The four committees, formed in August 2012, are: Academic Affairs and Research Committee, Finance, Budget, and Benefits Committee, Hospital and Health Affairs Committee, and Statutes, Governance, and Ethics Committee.)

The USC Chairman announced that the Board-appointed ad hoc committee to propose amendments to the Statutes and the General Rules has been expanded to include one more faculty member from each of the three campuses. Prasanta Kalita is the appointee from the Urbana campus.

**II. REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT, and MEETING WITH PRESIDENT EASTER AND VICE-PRESIDENT PIERRE**

President Easter reported to the Conference on his meetings with Speaker of the House Madigan about the University budget. The Conference also discussed the expected administrative reorganization of IT services, enrollment management, and the review of University-level administrative services.

1) University budget: As of Nov. 28, 2012, the State owed the University about \$500 million. President Easter described some of the proposals for restructuring the pension system, and explained that currently the focus of attention is on cost transfer from the state to the University. He expressed the view that, while it is likely that the University will have to take on more of the cost of pensions for its employees, our obligation should not exceed what we would pay into Social Security.

2) IT Reorganization: President Easter emphasized his belief that it is important to maintain local autonomy over IT administration and decision-making, and that this is compatible with finding ways to increase efficiencies in IT services. For example, he wondered whether it might not be more efficient and more convenient to use a common security and identity control system, and perhaps also a common email system. We learned that the reporting lines of the campus Chief Information Officers will revert to the campus level, although the CIOs will still maintain contact with the Executive Director of IT.

3) While each of the campuses has a procedure for an annual review of its budget (which on the Urbana campus is carried out in consultations with groups such as the Campus Budget Oversight Committee and the Deans' Budget Council), there is currently no such system in place for an annual review of the University Administration budget. President Easter has initiated such a review, with the goal of establishing a review structure that can be used for annual reviews at the UA level. His intention is to include consultation with end users in such a review process, as the input of those who use the system is very valuable.

President Easter has formed seven committees, each of which will review a particular office or function of University Administration. Each of the committees includes administrative officers, faculty members, and a dean, who serves as committee chair. The President would like the reports of the committees to be ready in March.

Chair Burbules expressed the Conference's support for this initiative, which indicates a commitment to trimming administrative expenses and eliminating inefficiencies in areas that will not directly impact our academic core.

4) Enrollment Management: Vice-President Pierre has been working with the Enrollment Management Advisory Council, which has met twice. Another meeting of the Council is scheduled for December, and will continue to meet regularly. The Council includes the three campus provosts, Associate Vice-President Richard Wheeler, and faculty member Carol Leff, a colleague from the Urbana campus.

Prof. Pierre explained that enrollment management has to do with crafting a student body that will allow the university to achieve its mission to serve the students of the state, be accessible and affordable, while also maintaining and enriching our reputation. The goal to maintain and enhance student and faculty quality and to provide quality education to students involves balancing the need for equitable access with the need to maintain the quality of our student body.

While funds spent on supplemental financial aid have increased from \$2 million 10 years ago to \$17 million, yield has decreased. (Yield refers to the percentage of accepted students who actually enroll.) The most frequently cited reason for not accepting our offer is related to financial issues.

Vice-President Pierre also reported that the Council is considering ways to improve our student record systems. There is interest in systems that can track student progress and allow for judicious intervention when students need extra attention. Such systems might improve our graduate rates while also improving the quality of education at the University.

### **III. MEETING WITH UIS CHANCELLOR SUSAN KOCH**

Over lunch, Chancellor Koch gave an overview of the UIS student population, of whom about 16% are Latina/o and about 25% are African-American. The average student age on the UIS campus is 27. Chancellor Koch said one of her goals is to increase enrollments from the current 5000 students to 7000 students. She also suggested that more could be done to encourage students applying to the Urbana or Chicago campuses to consider UIS rather than enrolling in a different university. Chancellor Koch emphasized the centrality of education in the liberal arts to the UIS campus, in addition to its strength in public affairs education.

### **IV. MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS KATHERINE LAING**

Katherine (Kappy) Laing discussed three major aspects of her representation of University interests in meetings with legislators and governmental agencies: exemption authority, regulatory burden, and pensions. She summarized the ongoing discussions with the State University Civil Service System about SUCSS's proposal to eliminate universities' power to determine whether given positions should be classified as civil service or as academic professional positions.

She added her thanks to faculty members and academic professionals who had attended Merit Board hearings to explain the potential effects on University operations of such a change.

Relief from regulatory burden represents an ongoing effort, which Ms. Laing has placed high on her list of goals for this year. In particular, she is working to move procurement legislation more in line with the everyday reality of University operations.

Regarding changes to our pension plans, Ms. Laing reported that the legislature was hoping to approve a plan in January, but that it was difficult to predict outcomes. However, it seemed likely to her that we would see changes to the Tier II plan, which affects employees hired on or after January 1, 2011.

### **V. BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

1. Review of the *Statutes* and *General Rules* and drafting of proposed amendments: Chair Burbules reported that a series of proposed amendments would be forthcoming, some of which are designed to clarify ambiguous or inaccurate language, and some of which involve more

substantial revisions, such as proposed changes to the section on sanctions less than dismissal. The Conference's Statutes and Governance Committee has offered to sort through the proposed amendments once they are ready, with the aim of separating those that seem strictly stylistic from those requiring more discussion.

2. Senators from UIS reported that the second reading of ST-72 (revisions to the Statutes regarding academic freedom) would be held in December. The Urbana and Chicago campuses have already approved the proposed amendment.

3. Chairs of the four Conference committees reported on committee activities. Of note was the report of Don Chambers, chair of the Hospital and Health Affairs committee, which discussed several issues related to the University's health enterprise, including clarifying the roles of the Vice President of Health Affairs vis-a-vis the deans of the College of Medicine and the deans of health sciences. The Committee plans to meet with President Easter and other relevant officials. Peter Boltuc, chair of the Conference's budget committee, expressed his intention to meet with the chairs of campus Senate budget committees.

4. The Conference discussed opportunities for and impediments to cross-campus collaborations, and concluded that this topic should form the focus of the next USC presentation to the Board. Don Chambers (UIC), Peter Boltuc (UIS) and Joyce Tolliver (Urbana) were appointed to draft a statement, and Tolliver agreed to give the presentation.

5. We have been notified that all members of the Conference must complete training on the Open Meetings Act. Chairman Burbules promised to forward the link to the training site to all Conference members, and asked that we complete the training as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Tolliver, USC Liaison