

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

**UC.13.09** Report on the May 15, 2013 meeting of the University Senates Conference held at the University of Illinois Chicago 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-0515.13.pdf>

The Conference was joined by President Robert Easter, Vice-President of Academic Affairs Christophe Pierre, Senior Communication and Evaluation Coordinator Jason Kosovski (Urbana), and incoming members Gay Miller (Urbana), Brian McKay and Sandy DeGroot (UIC).

The meeting was convened at 10:00 AM.

**I. Meeting with President Easter, Vice-President Pierre, and Dr. Kosovski**

**President Easter** reported on ongoing discussions with legislators regarding **pensions**. The current expectation is that universities will be asked to assume the cost of pensions. If this occurs, President Easter's intention is that the University request no decrease in our appropriation. If the transfer of cost does occur, it would be phased in gradually, over a number of years. The President discussed various potential scenarios with members of the Conference, and ways in which the University would respond in order to safeguard our power to attract and retain excellent faculty.

**Dr. Kosovski** represented Visiting Senior Advisor to the President Bill Adams, who was unable to attend the meeting. He gave a detailed report of the progress of the **review of University Administration**, which is in its final stages. (Information on the University Administration review can be found here: <http://www.uillinois.edu/uareview>.) All seven review teams have submitted reports to the units they reviewed, and most of those units have now responded to the draft reports. The team reports will be posted on the Review website, all reports being released at the same time.

The UA Review steering team will process the final reports and forward a list of concise recommendations to the Vice-President of Academic Affairs and to the Provosts, who, along with a representative of the University Senates Conference, will assess the teams' recommendations and forward final recommendations to the President and to the Chancellors. Implementation of some of the recommendations could begin as early as this summer.

Vice-President Pierre noted that each of the review teams recommended implementing a yearly review of each UA unit, as well as a structured budgetary allocation process.

Chair Burbules noted that the UA review reflects a fundamental shift in how the role of UA is viewed by the current president: UA is considered to play a supporting and coordinating role vis-a-vis the campuses.

**Vice-President Pierre** discussed the **campus resource strategic management plans** with the Conference. President Easter has requested that each campus forward a three-year plan for use of resources (including reserves), taking into account risks that are on the horizon. Plans should be completed by June 30. In order to carry out this task, each of the campuses has appointed a committee that includes representation of the faculty. (The composition of the Urbana committee can be found here: [http://www.provost.illinois.edu/committees/strategic\\_working\\_group.html](http://www.provost.illinois.edu/committees/strategic_working_group.html))

In Urbana, the plans will be coordinated with the Visioning Future Excellence initiative.

Regarding the need to plan campus budgets for a multi-year period, Chair Burbules suggested that, rather than waiting until the legislature has decided on our appropriation each year, we should **plan salary increment programs over a multi-year stretch**. The Conference voted unanimously to ask the USC Budget and Benefits committee to draft a resolution encouraging the president to adopt such a strategy. The USC Budget and Benefits committee convened during the lunch session to draft such a resolution, which was then approved during the afternoon business meeting.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING:**

Information was shared about the annual Board retreat, which will be held in Chicago on July 24. The retreat will focus on issues related to our health affairs and hospital operations. It was noted that, while recent practice has been to invite all USC members to participate in the retreats, this retreat will be smaller and will include only those Conference members integrally involved in hospital operations. Chair Burbules stated that he has conveyed to President Easter his sense that this exclusivity should be seen as an anomaly.

The Conference approved the following actions:

1. To transmit a document drafted by Urbana professors Randy McCarthy and Nicholas Burbules for presentation to the Urbana senate at the April 29, 2013 meeting. (That document can be found here: <http://www.senate.illinois.edu/130429letter.pdf>.) It was clarified that the document did not constitute an official statement on the part of the Urbana senate or any of its committees, but rather represented the views of two individual faculty members. The Conference voted to transmit the document to the three senates, the three chancellors, the President, and members of the Board, noting that we considered it worthy of attention.
2. To formally request of the President that an in-depth review be performed of the Office of the Vice-President for Health Affairs, including its "vision, structure, function, outcomes, and relationship to medical education."
3. To formally urge the Vice-President of Academic Affairs, the Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer, and the campus provosts to "develop and maintain multi-year plans for progressive salary programs at all levels for each campus."

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Tolliver, USC Liaison to Senate Executive Committee