

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

UC.19.01 Report of the University Senates Conference Activities August 29-October 31, 2018

Current membership of the University Senates Conference (USC), meeting agendas, and meetings can be found at: <http://www.usc.uillinois.edu>

USC has met three times during the fall 2018 semester: on August 29 (UI-Urbana), on October 1-2 (Retreat and Business Meeting at Allerton Conference Center), and on October 31 (UIC). President Tim Killeen and Executive Vice President Barbara J. Wilson join the Conference at each meeting for a two-hour long discussion of issues posed by USC. We regularly discuss the economic situation of the University of Illinois system, legislative matters affecting the three universities, planned and ongoing initiatives affecting faculty, and other topics raised by USC. At recent meetings, we also discussed the formation of a system-wide task force on the prevention of sexual harassment (October 31), the current state of the UI system as it relates to its peers (October 31), enrollment trends and implications (October 2), and strengthening USC's interactions with the Board of Trustees (August 29).

At the August 29 meeting, we were also joined by Dr. Edward Seidel, Vice President of Economic Development and Innovation, and at the Oct. 31 meeting by Dr. William Sanders, Interim Director of the [Discovery Partners Institute](#) (DPI), to discuss the planned structures of DPI and the Illinois Innovation Network, particularly as they relate to shared governance and to teaching.

At the first meeting of the academic year, we determined that our agenda for the upcoming year would focus on discussing the following interrelated topics:

1. The University of Illinois as "the Public's University": changing meanings
2. Teaching and preparing a labor force
3. New partnerships between UI and other entities
4. Shifting forms of shared governance

As the USC is granted time on the agenda of each meeting of the Board of Trustees for a short presentation, we determined in August that we would use our time to discuss each of these four topics with the Board. The first presentation, given at the September 27, 2018 Board meeting, was dedicated to an overview of USC's functions and to a brief summary of each of these issues. We will present our developing ideas on shifting forms of shared governance, and in particular shared governance at the system level, at the November 28 Board meeting.

Now that the UI System is launching research and academic initiatives such as DPI, we will need to develop new structures of shared governance so that faculty can continue to enact our responsibility of oversight over and initiation of the academic and research missions of the University of Illinois. The October 1 Retreat was therefore dedicated to developing a set of principles regarding **shared governance at the system level**. At its October 31 meeting, the Conference discussed a draft of a document outlining suggested best practices and principles, and we anticipate distributing a final version in the coming weeks.

As we have considered ways in which shared governance should be enacted at the system level, we have drawn on nearly a year's worth of conversations with system administrative leaders focusing on the Discovery Partners Institute, but anticipating the potential for other types of research and academic initiatives that would cross university boundaries and also involve partnerships with other academic, commercial, and civic entities.

Another major focus of USC's work this year has been the finalization of a set of proposed revisions to the *University Statutes* and to the *General Rules*. The senates have already received a set of proposed revisions to Article III of the *General Rules*, which deals with intellectual property rights and must therefore be reviewed by the senates (unlike other revisions of the *General Rules*, which are reviewed only by USC). Also submitted for review was a set of revisions to the *University Statutes* aimed at updating the language to reflect the switch in conceptualization of the relationship among the three campuses and the campuses' relationship with the central administration. This switch is reflected in the change in nomenclature from "University Administration" to "System" and from "campus" to "university."

The Conference now turns its attention to a set of more substantive proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, for example, changes to the section on Academic Freedom and Tenure (Article X), to the codification of "severe sanctions short of dismissal" of faculty (Article IX), and to the regularization of terminology to refer to academic positions. Our hope is to forward the proposed revisions to the senates during the spring 2019 semester.

Senators are encouraged to contact your representatives on the USC with comments, questions, or concerns regarding issues or topics relevant to all three University of Illinois universities. Your current representatives are James Brennan (LAS), Nicholas Burbules (Education), John Dallesasse (Engineering), Bettina Francis (LAS and Chair of SEC), Harley Johnson (Engineering), Prasanta Kalita (ACES), William Maher (Library), Gay Miller (Veterinary Medicine), Christopher Span (Education), and Joyce Tolliver (LAS and USC Chair).

Submitted by Joyce Tolliver, Chair, USC