

Meeting of the University Senates Conference Springfield, Illinois October 31, 2000

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Executive Summary

The University Senates Conference (USC) met on Tuesday, 31 October 2000, on the Campus of the University of Illinois Springfield. The morning was devoted to an executive session with President Stukel. The afternoon was devoted to the business of the conference. This is a report on the meeting

1 Executive Session

Each year each university presents a “big picture” to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). President Stukel highlighted the big picture presented by the University of Illinois to IBHE. The details are embargoed until they are presented to the Board of Trustees.

The President discussed the relation of economic development with other aspects of the university’s missions. He did mention that there would be increased emphasis on humanities in the future.

With regard to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the President has appointed a search committee chaired by Donald Uchtmann. The committee will conduct a national search.

The Conference will propose a process to conduct periodic reviews of vice presidents.

2 Guest

After a nice lunch the members gathered to hear a presentation about the Capital Scholars Program at the University of Illinois Springfield.

Professor Jim Stuart, Director of the Capital Scholars Program (UIS) met with the Conference to inform it of the new four year bachelor degree program the will begin next year. They expect about 200 new students each year which will bring the campus up to 1500 students, in steady state. This is a residential program—the students will live on campus.

The curriculum is not a traditional one. It will emphasize social sciences and writing—with some mathematics and science added onto the program. Team teaching will be utilized. As an example, Stuart outlined a two semester science sequence that would include an introduction to the scientific method and include a section on the nature of science. Mathematics would be at the college level but more likely “mathematics for humanities”.

3 Minutes

The minutes from the previous Sep 29, 2000, meeting were approved.

4 Classification of Senate Minutes

Senate minutes from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Springfield, and Urbana-Champaign were classified.

5 UIS Campus Update

Professor Pat Langley, chair of UIS Campus Senate and UIS representative to Conference reported that the search for a new Chancellor was going well. Interviews were being scheduled. She stated they were on schedule. [See the reports from the most recent Board of Trustees meeting for more up-to-date details.]

6 Old Business

ST-30 Terms of Faculty Employment. Fossum showed a new draft proposal to the Conference.

OT-144 Benefits for domestic partners. It was reported that President Stukel is reluctant to forward this to the Trustees since the policy appears to be “at odds with the current statutory framework.”

OT-161 Non-tenure track faculty appointments. This item arose from discussions in the Seminar on Tenure. An *ad hoc* committee was appointed to consider further action.

OT-162 ERP. The contract has been signed and administrative responsibility has been re-assigned.

OT-167 Faculty representation on the Board of Trustees. Whether or not faculty get privileges of the floor at Board meetings is still a very delicate topic.

OT-170 Seminar on Economic Development. VPEDCR Gardner and Don Uchtmann are planning a Seminar on Economic Development. Uchtmann updated the Conference on the plans.

OT-174 USC Retreat. A list of follow up items from the September 2000 USC retreat was discussed.

OT-176 The proposal to conduct periodic reviews of vice presidents was discussed in the morning session.

OT-123 USC Guests. A list of desired guests for future meetings was discussed.

7 New Business

The Conference web page was discussed.

8 Information

No surprising information was made available.

The meeting adjourned at about 3:00 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 28, 2000, in Chicago.

Submitted by Robert M. Fossum
USC Representative to the Urbana-Champaign Senate Council