

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

UC.13.05 Report on the January 17, 2013 meeting of the University Senates Conference

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-0117.13.pdf>

The Conference was joined by Vice-President of Academic Affairs Christophe Pierre, Visiting Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs Richard Wheeler, and Chancellor Phyllis Wise. The meeting was convened at 9:00 AM.

Chairman Nicholas Burbules welcomed Benet Deberry-Spence, UIC, who was joining the conference officially for the first time today.

I. HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING

1. ST 78/GR 47 (Proposal to revise the Statutes and General Rules to reverse the order of titles of Vice-President and Chancellor): The Conference discussed a proposal forwarded by its Statutes and Governance Committee that we report that all three senates had approved the proposed revision, and that we forward the further recommendations of Urbana's USSP, which proposed specific editorial changes, and which suggested that the Board consider eliminating the title "Vice-President" after the first mention of it in the *Statutes*.

Conference members voted to forward the entire USSP document along with a cover letter specifying that 1) all three senates support the suggested amendment; 2) we endorse the Urbana USSP's recommended editorial changes highlighted in yellow on the USSP document; 3) we also forward the further advice of the Urbana senate regarding the elimination of repetition in reference to the two titles.

2. ST 72: (Proposed amendments to the *Statutes* regarding academic freedom): All three senates have now approved the proposal. The Conference voted to forward the proposal to the President, along with its background statement.

3. OT-296: Proposal to amend the *Statutes* to allow USC to initiate amendments to statutes. The Conference voted unanimously to approve this proposal. Chair Burbules will insert this proposed amendment into the existing discussion about multiple revisions to the *Statutes*.

4. USC Report for March 27 meeting of the Board: Peter Boltuc (UIS) will give a presentation on academic freedom. Don Chambers and Joyce Tolliver agreed to join Prof. Boltuc in drafting the report.

5. Recalculation of apportionment of representation of campus senates on USC: The *Statutes* mandate that the relative apportionment of representatives from the three senates be based on the number of faculty members on each of the three campuses, and that this ratio be recalculated every five years. USC staff member Connie Sailor performed the recalculation and found that no change is necessary in the number of representatives from any of the three campuses.

6. OT-295: Proposed resolution on campus jurisdiction over the *Statutes* and *General Rules*: Discussion of this proposal will be carried over to the February meeting.

7. USC practices and the Open Meetings Act: the Conference's *Statutes* and Governance committee was charged with initiating a review of our governing documents and our existing practices in the context of the Open Meetings Act.

II. MEETING WITH VICE-PRESIDENT PIERRE AND VISITING ASSOC. VICE-PRESIDENT WHEELER

The meeting was dedicated to discussion of the planned review of academic units. Dr. Wheeler explained that the review is *not* designed to replace unit reviews, to provide a comprehensive review of any one department, to construct a "hit list" of underperforming departments, or to generate allocation or reallocation decisions. It is a review of units, not of programs within units, although information may be included on specific programs within the unit review.

It *will* be used to gather information about several aspects of academic unit productivity in a format that is compact and consistent across units; to provide a useful context for decision making at departmental, school, college and campus levels (although not *across* campuses); to develop a fuller understanding of relations among academic priorities, quality, costs, and revenue generation; and to provide a base for more extensive unit reviews if appropriate. The review is designed to help units plan, not for the University Administration to make decisions about the units.

Aspects considered will include scale (the size of the unit, the scope of its instruction, its research expenditures); diversity; distribution of teaching (who teaches what); rankings relative to nation, peer group, and campus; and the funding base in tuition and general revenue funds.

Most of the information will come from existing data bases.

Chair Burbules asked the Conference's Budget and Academic Affairs subcommittees to remain in contact with Dr. Wheeler about the review.

III. MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR WISE

The Chancellor spoke with Conference members about the campus Visioning Future Excellence at Illinois initiative, which is designed to address the question, "What is our responsibility to meet society's challenges, especially as a land grant university?"

The six issues identified through the Visioning exercises are: energy and the environment, social equality and cultural understanding, economic development, education, health and wellness, and information and technology. Six working groups were formed, one for each issue, to brainstorm specific aspects within each issue that our campus could work on over the next ten or twenty years. The groups then will meet a second time to formulate action plans for addressing those aspects. Each group includes representatives of the major campus stakeholders: faculty members, staff people, students, and administrative faculty members. By the end of February, all six groups will have finished their meetings. The Chancellor will then meet with her cabinet and with the deans to form a general campus action plan. Chancellor Wise sees the Visioning initiative as a general framework for strategic planning.

Chancellor Wise also spoke with us about the crucial question of how we will find the resources to continue to carry out our mission at a time when state and public support is dramatically decreasing.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Tolliver, USC Liaison