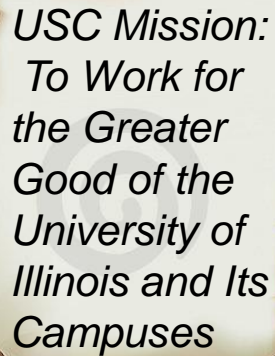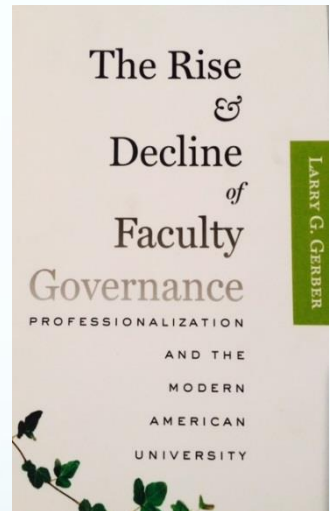# Shared Governance in a Time of Transition: Accomplishments of the University Senates Conference  2014-2015

*USC Mission: To Work for the Greater Good of the University of Illinois and Its Campuses*

Prof Donald A Chambers
 Chair, USC
Presentation to the Board of Trustees
University of Illinois
July 23, 2015

The Rise & Decline of Faculty Governance
PROFESSIONALIZATION AND THE MODERN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
LARRY G. GERBER

## University Senates Conference

Chair, Donald Chambers  UIC
Vice-Chair, Joyce Tolliver  UIUC

Executive Committee: 2 UIC, 2 UIS, 2 UIUC

20 faculty members: 7 UIC, 3 UIS, 10 UIUC

Subcommittees:
Academic Affairs and Research: Gay Miller
Finance Benefits and Budget: Roy Campbell
Hospital and Health Affairs: Jorge Villegas
Statutes and Governance: Nicholas Burbules

Staff Assistant** Connie Sailor

## Goals for the University Senates Conference

To continue to promote and enhance understanding and interactions between the Board of Trustees, University Administration, and the Faculty of the University of Illinois

To promote and facilitate ease of transition of leadership during this period of transition

To deal with current issues as they relate to our mission

To complete the mandated review of University Statutes in a timely manner

To participate in the design of the impending University strategic plan

## Two Recent USC Resolutions

I.  Statement on Excellence

The University Senates Conference shall endeavor in all that it does to promote the greatest degree of excellence achievable for each of the campuses consistent with the well being of the others.

Excellent campuses ensure the excellence of the University of Illinois

## II. <u>Resolution on Avoiding Cross Campus Conflicts</u>

The Conference affirms the right of each campus to propose initiatives designed to further its pursuit of excellence in a manner consistent with its distinct mission and identity.

The Conference respects and promotes the integrity of campus, University, Board and State review processes for the approval of any such academic proposals.

The Conference believes that each campus has an obligation to consider the potential effects of its proposals on the other campuses.

The Conference does not believe that it is within the jurisdiction of the faculty or administration of any one campus to curtail the academic planning of any other campus. Rather, the Conference urges administrative and faculty leaders across the campuses to pursue constructive, collaborative solutions when one proposed campus initiative is thought to present potential impediments to the pursuit of excellence on the part of any of the other campuses.

## Major Activities of the USC  2014-2015

1.  Completed mandated review and revisions of the University
Statutes and General Rules by May, 2015 (as promised)
2.  Created By-Laws for the USC
3.  Rendered advice on the UIUC Medical School Initiative
4.  Produced a White Paper on 'The Principles, Importance
and Role of The USC in Shared Governance at the University of Illinois'
5. Produced a resolution on the principles of dealing with cross-campus
conflict
6. Produced a resolution on budget priorities during a time of crisis
7. Reviewed the Vice-President for Academic Affairs
8. Honored Christopher Kennedy and Robert Easter and met with
Edward McMillan, Ricardo Estrada, Susan Kies, Michael Amiridis,
Eric Gislason, Thomas Hardy and Maureen Parks

## Institution-wide Questions

What are our core values and missions and how are they decided?
What is the role of shared governance and faculty in such decisions?

How do we define teaching/scholarship/economic development/
diversity in the context of our specific missions?

What is a flagship University and what are its special responsibilities?

How can we disperse the tensions that arise as a function of campus
autonomy and centralized authority?

USC Leadership – 2015-2016

Chair  Nicholas Burbules (UIUC)
Vice-Chair Jorge Villegas (UIS)

Executive Committee
UIC    Korous Mohammadian
          Meena Rao
UIS    Jorge Villegas
          Peter Boltoc
UIUC  Nicholas Burbules
          Gay Miller

## Building a Learning Community

The major business of the academy is teaching and scholarship.

The products of the academy are educated students and graduates, new knowledge and the betterment of society.

To obtain these goals, which are facilitated by administration, faculty, students and society interact in a community of learning.

## Expectations of the Learning Community

To produce critical thinkers and expand and export knowledge

To determine priorities of what to think about and how to utilize new knowledge

To meet the demands of a society of government of the people, by the people and for the people

UofI

One System

Three Learning Communities