

Annual Report of the UIC Senate to the Board of Trustees

June 16, 2015

Introduction

The University of Illinois *Statutes*, Article II, Section 1, provide for a senate to be constituted at each campus of the University to exercise legislative functions in matters of educational policy, such as requirements for admission to colleges and schools, requirements for degrees and certificates, and the academic calendar. Each senate shall also recommend candidates for honorary degrees, and may propose amendments to the *Statutes* through the University Senates Conference to the President and the Board of Trustees. The UIC Senate membership consists of approximately 200 faculty members, 50 student members and 3 academic professional members. Faculty senators are elected by and from the faculty of the colleges, schools, and the library for three-year terms. Student senators are elected for one-year terms from among the electorates of the three major academic divisions into which student programs are divided: undergraduate, graduate and health professional. Academic Professional senators are elected by the Academic Professional Academic Council.

Meetings and Agendas

The UIC Senate held six regular meetings at which issues of interest to the faculty, students and staff were discussed and acted upon, plus an organizing meeting at which elections for Senate officers and membership on standing committees were held. A Special Senate meeting was held on August 28, 2014 to discuss personnel matters related to recent changes in the administration associated with the departures of both Lon Kaufman and Bette Bottoms from their respective Provost and Vice-Provost positions.

The UIC Senate Executive Committee (SEC) held twelve regular meetings. The SEC acted on items coming from the Senate and Senate sub-committees, and from University Senates Conference. Three Special SEC meetings were held: 1) August 13, 2014 to discuss personnel matters related to the Provost position; a special Senate meeting for August 28, 2014 was approved in place of the scheduled SEC meeting. 2) August 22, 2014 to discuss personnel matters related to recent changes in the administration and the Chancellor search with President Easter. 2) December 1, 2014 to discuss personnel matters related to the chancellor position as well as issues related to the UIUC College of Medicine with President Easter.

The Chancellor and Interim Provost regularly attended both the Senate and the SEC meetings. In addition, to foster communication between faculty and administration, the SEC Leadership Team (Chair, Vice-Chair, and Presiding Officer) met monthly with the Provost and met with President-designate Killeen in February; the Chair met monthly with the Chancellor.

Major Topics Covered By the Senate and Committees

- UIUC College of Medicine
- Impact of State Budget on UIC
- Communication and Shared Governance
- Administrative searches
- *Statutes* and General Rules revisions

Guests at UIC Senate Meetings

- September 18, 2014, Dimitri Azar, Dean of the College of Medicine, shared a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of both a vision for the College of Medicine of the future and of the Manatt White Paper.
- October 29, 2014, Richard F. Dye, Co-Director, Fiscal Futures Project, Institute of Government and Public Affairs, shared a PowerPoint presentation on the “State of the State.”
- January 29, 2015, President Bob Easter shared information about leadership changes within the University, state government policies that impact the University, the Obama Library bid, and the UIUC College of Medicine.
- January 29, 2015, Maureen M. Parks, Associate Vice President of University Human Resources; Jami Painter, Assistant Vice President of University Human Resources; and Robert Crouch, Assistant Vice President of UIC Human Resources, discussed the expansion of the university-wide background check policy.

Senate Action

- Approved a motion to support a single and unified medical school in the University of Illinois.
- Endorsed the Council of Illinois University Senates Statement of Concern regarding Civil Service Reclassifications.
- Endorsed the Teaching Evaluation Policy
- Approved motion to withdraw the proposed Classified Research Policy and to revisit this policy conversation after new leadership at the University brings the item back to the Senate Committee for consideration.
- Approved a motion to amend the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 2 – Academic Freedom (USC ST-72) to exclude the first sentence in Article X, Section 2 the new (d): “All the rights enumerated in sections X.w.a, b and c above are subject to the applicable standards of academic conduct.” The UIC Senate then approved the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 2 – Academic Freedom (USC ST-72) as amended.
- Approved one honorary degree candidate.
- Approved motion to move Article III of *The General Rules* to the *Statutes*. (USC GR-46)
- Approved the proposed revisions to Article III of *The General Rules* (USC GR-46) concerning intellectual property issues. It was the general consensus of the Senate to have the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee continue to review the section of the *General Rules* concerning intellectual property issues, compare the

content to other universities, acquire legal advice on the proposed revisions, and develop specific recommendations on changing the existing content.

- Approved proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-77), with a revised date of February 25, 2015.
- Approved new and revised programs, certificate programs, an educational policy, and general education courses from the Senate Educational Policy Committee.
- Endorsed the Regular and Transparent Review of Unit Executive Officers Policy.
- Endorsed the Proposal for Graduate Writing Support on Campus.

Guests at UIC SEC Meetings

- October 1, 2014, former AAU President Robert Berdahl regarding UIC's interest in becoming a member of the AAU (Association of American Universities).
- October 9, 2014, Cheryl Towler Weese, Visiting Assistant Professor; Meghan Ferrill, Visiting Instructor; Brad Sturm, Studio Blue; and Philip J. Weiler, Senior Executive Director of Marketing and Brand Management, discussed UIC branding.
- November 6, 2014, Mark Donovan, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, provided a status report on construction of the Advanced Chemical Technology Building.
- November 6, 2014, Barbara Henley, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, discussed proposed changes to the Student Center East Cafeteria and Inner Circle.
- November 19, 2014, Mary M. Case, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, discussed the academic programming component of the Obama Presidential Library proposal.
- November 19, 2014, Robert Crouch, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, presented details about the Sponsored Programs Demonstration Project.
- November 19, 2014, Renee Taylor, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; Kate Franck; Jacob Schulz; and Mercedes Jones discussed the Teaching Evaluation Policy.
- December 18, 2014, Christopher Kennedy, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, discussed how the SEC and Senate can work more effectively with the Board.
- March 11, 2015, Dick Simpson, Professor in the Department of Political Science, and Scott McFarland, Teaching Assistant in the Department of English, discussed with the Committee a variety of ways that the Senate can lobby against Governor Rauner's proposed state budget cuts to higher education institutions.
- April 2, 2015, SEC President Robert Easter explained his decision making process regarding the UIUC College of Medicine
- April 15, 2015, Michael Redding, Executive Associate Chancellor of Public and Government Affairs discussed: how he is addressing a concern that members of the Senate Executive Committee have observed about the little coverage UIC has received in the regional and national press regarding the UIC bid for the Obama Library, in particular as compared to University of Chicago's bid; an overview of his areas of responsibility, and how they relate to UIC and the mission of UIC. The Committee also discussed ways to work together.

Items/Topics Covered by SEC

UIUC College of Medicine

- At the Board of Trustees University Healthcare System Committee meeting on November 3, 2014 a few SEC members distributed written information about the UIUC College of Medicine
- Senator LaDu (MED) made a public comment at the November 13, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting about the UIUC College of Medicine

Impact of State Budget on UIC

- The Senate Budget, Planning and Priorities Committee and the Senate Executive Committee developed the Senate Budget Principles letter that was sent to Interim Chancellor and Provost Gislason.
- Members of SEC organized the efforts of Senators to lobby against Governor Rauner's proposed state budget cuts to higher education institutions.

Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

- To reflect SEC's strong belief in the establishment of a Standing Health Sciences Oversight Committee comprised of faculty and community leaders to oversee the process of reorganization as it develops and is implemented, the Committee developed a document that included detailed information about the purpose and composition of the committee.

Communication and Shared Governance

- Following the UIC Senate's motion of no confidence in the Chancellor, SEC emphasized the need to increase the Committee's communication with both the Board of Trustees and President.
- SEC discussed shared governance and agreed to work further on shared governance once the subcommittee with a focus on the topic of Engagement in the Senate has shared its work.
- SEC provided Chancellor Amiridis with the names of two faculty Senators to serve on a small working advisory group to develop some priorities for the campus in preparation for him to participate in President Killeen's strategic planning exercise.
- SEC provided Chancellor Amiridis feedback on a change he proposed in the Chief Financial Officer's reporting line from the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost current structure—to a structure in which the Chief Financial Officer reports directly to the Chancellor with dotted lines to both the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs.
- Chancellor Review Process developed

Engagement

- SEC discussed ways to engage faculty more in the Senate and meetings of the Senate.
- SEC Chair attended a Deans' Council meeting to encourage faculty engagement in the Senate.
- A subcommittee was formed with a focus on the topic of Engagement in the Senate.

Collaboration

- SEC met with Janet Smith, President of UIC United Faculty, and discussed with her: how she sees the relationship between UIC United Faculty and the Senate, and what she sees as the division of responsibilities between the two groups; what shared initiative could be undertaken between UIC United Faculty and the Senate to push back on Governor Rauner's proposed state budget cuts to higher education institutions; and what is her interpretation of the impact of Governor Rauner's executive order that would bar unions from requiring all state workers to pay the equivalent of dues on UIC United Faculty. SEC, also, discussed with her ways that the Senate and UIC United Faculty can work together.

Administrative Search Committees

- SEC nominated individuals to serve on the search committee for the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs
- SEC nominated individuals to serve on the search committee for the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

Other Items/Topics

- Senate Strategic Priorities identified
- Topic of furlough money discussed

Activities of the Senate Standing Committees

Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee reviewed the following items: the Policy on Modification of Time Frame for the Probationary Period for Tenure Track Faculty due to Unanticipated Irregularities in the Candidate's External or Internal Academic Infrastructure; the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 2 – Academic Freedom (USC ST-72); and concerns that were raised by the Senate Executive Committee about the Official Announcement dated August 22, 2014 with the subject of “An atmosphere for learning.”

Senate Academic Services Committee met with Renee Taylor, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, to consider a policy on the online posting of student evaluation of teaching scores. The Committee developed a Proposal for Graduate Writing Support on Campus. The Committee discussed the following issues: Open Access to Research Articles; iThenticate; IAM (Identity and Access Management); moving to a single email system; and the ACCC/ ITGC strategic plan.

Senate Budget, Planning and Priorities Committee developed the Senate Budget Principles letter that was sent to Interim Chancellor and Provost Gislason.

Senate Committee on Educational Policy reviewed 45 New and Revised programs, 5 Certificate Programs, 1 Educational Policy, and 37 General Education Courses.

Senate Faculty Affairs Committee met with Renee Taylor, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, to review the proposal for “Regular and Transparent Review of Unit Executive Officers,” as well as extension of the probationary period from 6 to 9 years. The Committee reviewed the proposed revisions to the *General Rules* (USC GR-46)

concerning intellectual property issues; evaluated University-wide efforts to enhance faculty diversity throughout the colleges, with a particular focus on STEM disciplines; and discussed ways to give clear and consistent faculty voice on issues of pension, health insurance, fringe rates, etc.

Senate Research Committee discussed University Senates Conference item USC OT-312, Future Research Priorities; UI Portal STARTmyResearch; the proposed University-wide policy on classified research; the proposed policy on Open Access to Research Articles at the University of Illinois; the proposed revisions to the *General Rules* (USC GR-46) concerning intellectual property issues. The Committee is developing a report to share with Chancellor Amiridis about the research-related areas that require campus attention during the next 12-18 months and the major research priorities by college, as well as major interdisciplinary projects that span colleges. The Committee met with Larry Shook, Vice President for Research. The Committee also met with Vanessa Peoples, Executive Director and Assistant Chief Business Officer in OBFS, and Beth Seaton, Director of Sponsored Projects in the Vice Chancellor for Research Office, who presented on OMB Uniform Guidance.

Senate Student Affairs Committee met with Renee Taylor, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, to review a policy on the online posting of student evaluation of teaching scores. The Committee discussed FERPA policies and iThenticate.

Senate Student Recruitment, Retention and Admissions Committee discussed involvement of faculty in recruitment; admissions criteria (e.g., requirement of the ACT/SAT or the AP); graduation rates; four year completion of undergraduate degrees; challenges related to recruitment and admission of underrepresented minority students, international students and students from international baccalaureate programs; increasing UIC scholarships and aid; and exploration of test-optional admissions.

Senate Support Services Committee created a Human Resources subcommittee this year to focus on issues related to: campus diversity, civil service concerns, and HR communications. The Senate Support Services Committee focused on Customer Service and Campus Human Ecology/Quality of Life during the 2014-15 academic year.

This concludes the report of the UIC Senate for 2014-2015.

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine Vincent, RN, PhD
Chair, UIC Senate Executive Committee.