

Annual Report of the UIC Senate to the Board of Trustees

May 29, 2013

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 determined by elections held by the Academic Professional Academic Council.

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. The UIC Senate Executive Committee (SEC) held eleven meetings. The SEC acted on items coming from the Senate and Senate sub-committees, and from University Senates Conference. Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares and Provost Lon Kaufman regularly attended both the Senate and the SEC meetings.

The Chancellor and the Senate co-sponsored a lecture on April 17, 2013 featuring speaker President Emeritus Larry Faulkner, who spoke of the role of shared governance in a changing environment for higher education.

In addition to Chancellor Allen-Meares and Provost Kaufman, guests of the SEC this year included:

- Lawrence Schook, Vice President for Research, and Mitra Dutta, Vice Chancellor for Research who discussed UI Labs
- Cynthia Herrera Lindstrom, the UIC CIO. She discussed recent changes in the reporting lines of IT, an IT Strategic Plan, and faculty needs and resources for MOOCs
- Trustee Ricardo Estrada who discussed his interest in strategies to increase student success and the role played by the health professions
- Renee Taylor, Interim Vice-Provost for Faculty Affairs who discussed faculty contract classifications and definitions
- Robert Crouch, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, and Caryn Bills-Windy, Associate Chancellor, to discuss the academic professional to civil service conversion process

Items covered by the SEC this year included:

- Implementation of procedural changes to Senate and SEC meetings to make them more interactive and responsive to Senators concerns and interests
- Nomination of faculty to serve on University Administration task force to review administrative services and potential cost savings
- Working with Meena Rao, Interim Special Assistant to the Provost for Diversity, about the value of having a UIC Senate Committee on "Equal Opportunity and Inclusion" and the issue of diversity and inclusiveness in relation to the Senate
- Discussion of eligibility for Senate membership regarding faculty titles and contracts, and the expansion of eligibility based on these discussions
- Discussion of the criteria for membership in the AAU
- Discussion with Provost Kaufman on the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs' document "Regular and Transparent Review of Unit Executive Officers"
- The Chair of the Senate Academic Services Committee, provided background information on federal and state legislation regarding a Campus Open Access Policy. SEC recommended that the Chair of the Academic Services Committee share this information with the Senate Research Committee.

Guests at the UIC Senate meetings this year were:

- President Robert Easter was a guest at the November Senate meeting
- Richard Johnson, UIC UNITED Political Action Director, who discussed the Constitutional Amendment #49 (HJRCA49)
- David Merriman, Associate Director and Professor, Institute of Government and Public Affairs and Professor, Department of Public Administration who presented an "Update on Illinois' Economic and Fiscal Challenges and Responses"
- Nancy Sullivan, Director of Office of Technology Management, who presented the video of faculty research accomplishments prepared for the UIC Campus Insights Board of Trustees event, and discussed the Chancellor's Innovation Fund
- Saul Weiner, Vice Provost for Planning and Programs discussed Strategic Planning activities
- Mitra Dutta, Vice Chancellor for Research, and Caralynn Nowinski, Associate Vice President for Innovation and Economic Development, discussed UI Labs
- David Bardack, UIC representative on IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee, who brought regular IBHE updates

Topics covered at Senate meetings included:

- The role and effectiveness of faculty mentoring programs at UIC
- Approval of the proposed revisions to the Statutes and The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedures - to change throughout both documents "Vice President/Chancellor at the (Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, or Springfield) Campus" to "Chancellor at the (Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, or Springfield) Campus/Vice President" (USC ST-78/GR-47)
- Discussion of revising the P&T application process

- Approval of a proposed revision to the UIC Senate Bylaws, Article I, Section 2 (c) to include an open nominating period before the election of Senators
- Approval of two honorary degree candidates
- The UIC Senate had first reading of the proposed revisions to the Statutes, Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the Statutes (USC ST-79/OT-296)
- After review by the Senate Research Committee, the Senate approved a Senate Research Committee proposal CI-13.01, to eliminate the Center for Urban Educational Research and Development (CUERD)
- Discussion of the process to review Deans and Department heads

The UIC Senate also has subcommittees which worked throughout the year on a variety of issues, and their hard work deserves mention. Some of the highlights of their activities are listed:

- The Senate Committee on Educational Policy reviewed and approved 36 New and Revised Programs, 48 General Education Courses, 3 Certificate Programs, and 1 Educational Policy
 - The Senate Academic Services Committee discussed the procedures and infrastructure for the review of courses and faculty by students
 - The Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure discussed current policies regarding the tenure probationary hold policy and other tenure process issues with Vice Provost Renee Taylor and Provost Lon Kaufmann
 - The Senate Committee on Student Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention met with Vice Chancellor Kevin Browne to discuss the “Strategic Enrollment Management Plan for 2012-2013”
 - The Senate Support Services Committee has provided a very thorough document “A Framework for University Support Services Improvement”. Amongst the discussion points in this document are the considerations that: the University of Illinois should be established as a public-trust rather than another state agency; we need regulatory and bureaucratic burden relief; that there be improvements in customer service, business procedures and human resources; that we continue responsibility-centered management; that we improve security for a 24/7 campus; that we address safety and deferred maintenance of buildings; that we support the critical and unique roles played by academic professionals within UIC; and that UIC should develop an Office of Classroom Management
 - The Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs discussed many topics of interest and concern to faculty including: The climate for higher education in the state, with particular attention to the IBHE and faculty input via its Faculty Advisory Committee; Pensions; Faculty input in administrative decision-making; Insubstantial roles of faculty advisory committees; Effective and objective evaluation of administrators.
- The latter discussion resulted in a document "Regular and Transparent Review of Unit Executive Officers" as a starting point for further discussion and action.
- The Senate External Relations and Public Service Committee reviewed lack of publicity at UIC, in particular regarding the ACT Building and the 30th anniversary of the creation of the University of Illinois at Chicago with the merger of the University of Illinois at

Chicago Circle and the University of Illinois Medical Center. The committee also recommended two people for honorary degrees. The committee met with Victoria Chou, the Interim Executive Associate Chancellor for External and Governmental Affairs, to discuss the activities of the unit

-The Senate Research Committee reviewed the UIC College of Pharmacy Center for Engagement in Novel Therapeutic Research and Enterprise application for temporary approval. The Committee met with Vice Chancellor for Research, Mitra Dutta, to discuss UI Labs and she also presented on the state of research at UIC.

This concludes the report of the UIC Senate for 2012-2013.

Respectfully Submitted,
Philip Patston, Ph.D.,
Chair, UIC Senate Executive Committee.