



UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS
SYSTEM

ALTOGETHER EXTRAORDINARY

**University Senates Conference Presentation to the Board of Trustees
Presented by Magic Wade, USC Chair**

Sept. 10, 2020, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

University Senates Conference

University Senates Conference

Mandated by University Statutes (Article II, Section 2) and Comprised of 20 Members of the three University Senates

- Charged with:

- *Reviews all matters acted on by each Senate*
- *Promoting agreement among Senates*
- *Assisting in communication among Senates and Universities*
- *Advising Board and Senates on matters of systemwide concern*

USC's Mission:

- *To work for the greater good of the University of Illinois System and all of its Universities.*

USC Full Membership 2020-2021*

UIC	UIS	UIUC
Larry Danziger	Lynn Fisher*	James Brennan
Sandra De Groote*	TBD	Roy Campbell
Danilo Erricolo	Magic Wade* (Chair)	John Dallesasse
Cecil Hunt		Jeffrey Eric Jenkins
Aria Razfar*		Robin Kar* (Vice Chair)
Michael Stroschio		William Maher*
		Christopher Span
		Mark Steinberg
		Helga Varden
		Min Zhan

- *Indicates Executive Committee member
- “special concern of the conference executive committee to aid in maintaining harmonious relations among such [administrative] officers and the University.”

Shared Governance through USC:: Ideals To Promote and Uphold

- Shared governance provides a necessary vehicle and an effective platform for dialogue between faculty and administrators.
- When deliberations entail hard choices and sacrifice, and elected faculty representatives have helped determine these decisions, then other faculty are more willing to accept the outcomes because they trust that their interests were considered and represented in the deliberations. (USC White Paper on Shared Governance, 2015)

Ordinary Functions

- Input into the “framing and execution of long-range plans,” at every level
- Advises the BOT through the President
- Channels faculty interests and concerns to the system
- Consultation on hiring, review of leadership
- Advises on revisions to the Statutes and General Rules

Ordinary Activities

- Advice on General University Policies regarding multi-year contracts for non-tenure track faculty and the extension of benefits to same-sex and opposite-sex domestic partners (2005-2006)
- Budget Planning and Reform Recommendations during Illinois budget stalemate (2015)
- Statement of support for Five Year Hiring Plans (2019)
- Sexual Misconduct Policy Revisions Advice (2019-2020)
- Guidelines for Systemwide academic and research initiatives during the planning and development phase of DPI (2019-2020)
- Revised Statutes and General Rules (today!)

Extraordinary Functions

- Crisis mitigation and response (Spring, Summer, and Fall 2020)
- Maintain frequent dialogue with administration
- Combine immediate perspective with longer-view planning
- Give voice to the unique concerns of each University

Extraordinary Activities

- Provide consultation and leadership on System and Senates' responses to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and systemic racism.
- Advocate for preservation of university and community safety through regular review of mitigation, testing, and containment policies.
- Provide oversight on policies regarding remote and in-person teaching for faculty across the three universities
- Aggregate concerns to promote a shared vision for University of Illinois amidst multiple crises

Plans for Extraordinary 2020-2021 Term

Fall Retreat (Sept. 2020)

- Examine what universities can do to promote anti-racism through police training and reform
- Consider guiding principles on Covid-19 test licensing and partnerships that reflect our values as a public university system.
- Re-envision scholarship and P&T guidelines due to the pandemic, restrictions on travel and research, and limited funding

Yearlong Activities

- Elevate racial justice as a **permanent** priority: identify and establish resource streams to promote research and inform public policy
- Advocate for International students and DACA recipients
- Review, support, and improve Covid-19 responses through information-sharing, data gathering, policy review, and consultation

Questions?

Thank you!

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