**Annual Report of the UIC Senate to the Board of Trustees**

**May 30, 2024**

**Senate Leadership Team**

Sandra De Groote (Library), Secretary of the Senate & Chair of the Executive Committee

Donald Wink (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), Vice Chair of the Executive Committee & Chair of the Budget, Planning and Priorities Committee

Kate Floros (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), Presiding Officer of the Senate

**Senate Executive Committee**

Victoria Persky (SPH)

Larry Danziger(PHARM)

Benet DeBerry-Spence (BUS)

Kheir Al-Kodmany (CUPPA)

James Drown (LAS)

Krishna Garg(Graduate Student)

Memoona Hasnain (MED)

Karen Cross (LAW)

Beate Geissler (CADA)

Adrineh Aris (Health and Law Professions Student)

Bita Fayz(DENT)

Cătălin Buhimschi (MED)

Claudia Lora (MED)

Leah Lebowicz (AHS)

Farid Peiravian (ENGR)

Asa Asad (Undergraduate Student)

Michael Calik(NURS)

Charles Hounmenou (JACSW)

Danilo Erricolo (ENGR)

Jason Salisbury (EDUC)

Colleen Piersen (Academic Professional)

**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 University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Senate membership consists of 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 and law professional. Academic Professional senators are elected by the Academic Professional Academic Council.

**Meetings and Agendas**

The UIC Senate held six meetings at which issues of interest to the faculty, students and staff were discussed and acted upon; plus an organizing meeting at which new members were welcomed, the senate purpose and committees described, and elections for Senate officers and membership on standing committees was held. The six Senate Meetings occurred on: September 28; October 26; November 29, 2023; January 31; March 14; and April 24, 2024.

The UIC Senate Executive Committee (SEC) held 14 meetings. The SEC acted on items forwarded from the Senate and Senate Standing Committees, and from University Senates Conference. One Special SEC Meetings was also convened in July, 2023 to discuss governance issues for 2023-2024 with Marie Lynn Miranda, Chancellor; Karen Colley, Provost; and Robert Barish, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs.

To promote shared governance and continue strong and effective communication between faculty and administration, the Chancellor, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Provost/VCAA), and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs (VCHA) regularly attended both the Senate and the SEC meetings. In addition, the SEC Leadership Team (Chair, Vice-Chair, and Presiding Officer) met monthly with the Chancellor or Provost on an alternating basis.

**Guests at UIC Senate Meetings**

* Timothy Killeen, President, was a guest at the September 28, 2023 Senate meeting and reported on enrollment, philanthropy, faculty recruitment and the state budget allocation.

He discussed student mental health concerns and shared an update on the work of the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI).

* Andy Mitchell and Elizabeth Ortner were guests at the October 26, 2023 Senate meeting and presented about the UIC Climate Action Implementation Plan and the process underway to update the plan.
* Nikos Varelas, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Effectiveness, and Ritu Subramony, Director of Accreditation, were guests at the January 31, 2024 Senate meeting during which they discussed the status of the Reaffirmation of Accreditation, shared the timeline, and explained the Higher Learning Commission’s accreditation Site Visit Schedule.
* Mitch Theys and Chris Kanich were guests at the March 14, 2024 Senate meeting and provided an introduction and overview of the Faculty Advisory Committee.

**UIC Senate Action/Activities**

* The Senate provided feedback about the proposal to establish a consultation process on System-wide Policies (**USC OT-372**).
* The Senate discussed the Understanding FOIA: How to Follow the Law While Protecting Your Own Privacy (**USC OT-385**) item.
* The Senate approved a motion to allow the Senators participating remotely for a valid reason to vote at UIC Senate meetings this academic year.
* Senate representatives met with the Vice Chancellor for Budget, HR and Financial Administration candidates during their in-person visits.
* A Senate representative served on the Budget Redesign Taskforce.
* The Senate approved the Academic Calendars for the 2027-2028 academic year and 2028-2029 academic year and 2029-2030 academic year.
* The Senate approved the Non-affiliated persons, groups, organizations and/or entities use of university facilities policy.
* The Senate approved feedback about the Graduate College Faculty review process.
* The Senate approved feedback about the University of Illinois System Values and Principles for Conduct(**USC OT-387**).
* The Senate provided feedback about the draft guidelines “Process for when students feel they have been harmed in the classroom.”
* The Senate approved **CI-24.01**, Proposal to Eliminate the Center for Public Safety and Justice and **CI-24.02**, Proposal to Establish the Government Finance Research Center.
* The Senate endorsed the following three Proposed P&T Modifications for AY 2024-25: Replacement of Raw Student Evaluation Scores/Data, External Review Requirements for Clinical/Teaching Faculty, and Merging of Tenure and Non-Tenure System Dossier Form and Guidelines.
* The Senate approved the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 7a – Sabbatical Leaves and Unpaid Leaves of Absence for Members of the Faculty
* (**ST-24.01**).
* The Senate approved the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II, Sections 3a(1) and 3a(2) – Faculty Role in Governance (**ST-24.02**).
* Senators were represented on the Chancellor Task Force that is developing specific guidelines or policies related to the issuing of “departmental” (interpreted broadly as colleges, schools, institutes, advocacy centers or similar units) statements on matters of real or potential public controversy.
* The Senate endorsed and provided feedback about the UIC Faculty Mentoring Policy.

**Guests at UIC Senate Executive Committee Meetings**

* Donna McNeely, Executive Director of University Ethics and Compliance, was a guest at the December 14, 2023 SEC meeting and discussed the issue of student gifts to faculty. She also discussed concerns the Committee had raised about the Chicago Tribune November 2, 2023 article titled “UIC case hints at gaps in whistleblower protections.”
* Mike Stieff, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, was a guest at the March 27, 2024 SEC meeting and discussed options related to the proposed revisions to “University of Illinois Chicago Promotion and Tenure Committee Policies and Procedure.”

**Senate Executive Committee Action/Activities**

* SEC reviewed the “Non-affiliated persons, groups, organizations and/or entities use of university facilities policy.”
* SEC discussed the Understanding FOIA: How to Follow the Law While Protecting Your Own Privacy (**USC OT-385**) item.
* SEC provided feedback about the proposal to establish a consultation process on System-wide Policies (**USC OT-372**).
* SEC endorsed the Academic Calendars for the 2027-2028 academic year and 2028-2029 academic year and 2029-2030 academic year.
* SEC provided feedback about the Graduate College Faculty review process.
* SEC reviewed the University of Illinois System Values and Principles for Conduct(**USC OT-387**).
* The Committee provided feedback about the draft guidelines “Process for when students feel they have been harmed in the classroom.”
* The Committee reviewed the Summary of Proposed P&T Modifications for AY 2024-25.
* The Committee proposed revisions to the "University of Illinois at Chicago Promotion and Tenure Committee Policies and Procedure" document to include non-tenure track faculty representation.
* SEC members represented the Senate on a subcommittee of the UIC Space and Capital Planning Committee.
* SEC updated the Annual Review of the Chancellor process document.
* SEC created a Bylaws and *Statutes* changes ad hoc committee that developed two proposed revisions to the *Statutes* items and a set of revisions to the UIC Senate Bylaws.
  + SEC discussed the issue of funding sabbaticals.
  + SEC reviewed the Faculty Mentoring Policy.

**Activities of the Senate Standing Committees:**

**Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee** provided feedback about the Graduate College Faculty review process. In response to a request from SEC, the Committee considered specific suggestions of actions associated with the UIC Senate-Black Lives Matter Statement that can be taken by the UIC Senate. The Committee reviewed the “Non-affiliated persons, groups, organizations and/or entities use of university facilities policy.” The Committee provided feedback about the University of Illinois System Values and Principles for Conduct(**USC OT-387**). The Committee provided feedback about the draft guidelines “Process for when students feel they have been harmed in the classroom.” The Committee reviewed the Summary of Proposed P&T Modifications for AY 2024-25. The Committee proposed revisions to the "University of Illinois Chicago Promotion and Tenure Committee Policies and Procedure" document to include non-tenure track faculty representation.

**Senate Academic Services Committee** was asked to develop a policy about the use of self-authored curriculum materials where the student must purchase the text. In response to a request from SEC, the Committee considered specific suggestions of actions associated with the UIC Senate-Black Lives Matter Statement that can be taken by the UIC Senate, including technology support for students and heritage displays in the library. The Committee worked to develop an Online / Hybrid Course Policy. The Committee discussed the Learning Technology Solutions pilot program of Grammarly.

**Senate Budget, Planning and Priorities Committee** members assisted with the Vice Chancellor for Finance search. The Committee reviewed slides used by University of Illinois Vice President and CFO Paul Ellinger in a presentation to the University Senates Conference that highlighted information on state appropriations to the System and its constituents, the presence of dedicated appropriations, the specific functions that the System provides to the three universities, and the financial assets held by the System. The Committee discussed the Fall 2020 Black Lives Matter statement, specifically how a response to the Advancing Racial Equity initiative will be coming to colleges and administrative units, as well as the history and outcomes of support given through the Bridge to the Faculty program. The Committee examined the UIC budget summary for operations. The Committee discussed the report of the IBHE Commission on Equitable Public University Funding with Michael Moss, Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Financial Analysis, and Provost Colley.

**Senate Committee on Educational Policy** reviewed 56 New and Revised programs, 8 Certificate programs, 2 Educational Policies, and 20 General Education Courses. The Committee worked to develop an Online / Hybrid Course Policy. In response to a request from SEC, the Committee considered specific suggestions of actions associated with the UIC Senate-Black Lives Matter Statement that can be taken by the UIC Senate, including developing a resolution for the Senate indicating support for new IBHE equity template languageand providing an update to the Senate on the implementation and communication of the new academic program change templates.

**Senate External Relations and Public Service Committee** solicited nominations for honorary degrees. In response to a request from SEC, the Committee considered specific suggestions of actions associated with the UIC Senate-Black Lives Matter Statement that can be taken by the UIC Senate. Marty Gutierrez, Senior Director of Government Relations and Advocacy, was a guest at a meeting and described the efforts of the office to support legislative matters of interest to the University.

**Senate Faculty Affairs Committee** provided feedback about the Graduate College Faculty review process. The Committee provided feedback about the University of Illinois System Values and Principles for Conduct(**USC OT-387**).The Committee provided feedback about the draft guidelines “Process for when students feel they have been harmed in the classroom.”The Committee reviewed the Summary of Proposed P&T Modifications for AY 2024-25. The Committee proposed revisions to the "University of Illinois Chicago Promotion and Tenure Committee Policies and Procedure" document to include non-tenure track faculty representation.The Committee reviewed the Faculty Mentoring Policy.

**Senate Research Committee** provided feedback about the about the University of Illinois System Values and Principles for Conduct(**USC OT-387**). In response to a request from the SEC, the Committee created an Antiracist Research Subcommittee, which developed specific suggestions of actions associated with the UIC Senate-Black Lives Matter Statement that can be taken by the UIC Senate. The Committee reviewed **CI-24.01**, Proposal to Eliminate the Center for Public Safety and Justice and **CI-24.02**, Proposal to Establish the Government Finance Research Center. The Committee reviewed the Faculty Mentoring Policy. The Chair represented the Senate on the Research Space subcommittee of the UIC Space and Capital Planning Committee. Abigail Goben, Associate Professor & Data Management & Liaison Librarian, and Andy Boyd, Associate Professor in the Biomedical and Health Information Sciences, were guests at a meeting and provided background on the policies titled “Access to Sensitive UIC Sponsored Research Data Policy” and “UIC Research Data Ownership and Stewardship Policy,” as well as the associated procedures document that the Committee provided feedback about. Neal McCrillis, Vice Provost for Global Engagement, was a guest at a Committee meeting and provided background on UIC’s international travel safety policy.

**Senate Student Affairs Committee** reviewed the “Non-affiliated persons, groups, organizations and/or entities use of university facilities policy.” In response to a request from SEC, the Committee developed specific suggestions of actions associated with the UIC Senate-Black Lives Matter Statement that can be taken by the UIC Senate, specifically the UIC Loaner laptop program. The Committee provided feedback about the Graduate College Faculty review process. The Committee provided feedback about the draft guidelines “Process for when students feel they have been harmed in the classroom.” The Committee discussed the Art Institute of Chicago’s “University Partner Program" with Rob Dixon, Interim Vice Chancellor and Vice Provost for Student Affairs.

**Senate Student Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention Committee**, in response to a request from SEC associated with the UIC Senate-Black Lives Matter Statement, considered developing a resolution concerning student financial issues associated with recruitment and admissions and examining the mentoring programs across the campus in terms of retention with a focus on the retention of students from underserved communities. The Committee heard a report from Kiely Fletcher, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, who is an Ex Officio member of the Committee.

**Senate Support Services Committee** reviewed the “Non-affiliated persons, groups, organizations and/or entities use of university facilities policy.” The Committee undertook a review of Campus Safety and Campus Threat Preparedness. The Committee discussed UIC Police arrest protocol. The Committee met with Wanda Perry, Director of Campus Parking, who shared UIC parking policies and procedures. A member served on the Space and Capital Planning Committee (SCPC). A member served on the UIC Public Safety Board. The Committee met as part of the Ad Hoc Calendar Committee to approve the Academic Calendars for the 2027-2028 academic year and 2028-2029 academic year and 2029-2030 academic year and add the newly instituted Fall Break to each.

**Ad Hoc Senate Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** provided feedback about the University of Illinois System Values and Principles for Conduct(**USC OT-387**). The Committee suggested language for the charge of a Senate Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as the Committee transitions to a Senate Standing Committee incorporated within the UIC Senate Bylaws.

This concludes the report of the UIC Senate for 2023-2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra De Groote

Chair UIC Senate Executive Committee.