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

**May 30, 2025**

**Senate Leadership Team**

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

Memoona Hasnain (College of Medicine), 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)

David Merriman (CUPPA)

Anna Guevarra (LAS)

Zoe Harris(Graduate Student)

Donald Wink (LAS)

Steven Schwinn (LAW)

Beate Geissler (CADA)

Patrick Maier (Health and Law Professions Student)

Bita Fayz(DENT)

Olga Garcia-Bedoya (MED)

Claudia Lora (MED)

Sam Bond (AHS)

Farid Peiravian (ENGR)

Asa Asad (Undergraduate Student)

Michael Calik(NURS)

Jennifer Geiger (JACSW)

Benjamin Aldred (LIB)

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, 44 student members, and 9 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 26; October 23; December 4, 2024; January 30; March 12; and April 24, 2025. A special meeting of the Senate convened on September 3, 2024 during which the UIC Senate provided feedback on the UIC Policy on University Public Statements and the UIC Open Expression Policy.

The UIC Senate Executive Committee (SEC) held 13 meetings. The SEC acted on items forwarded from the Senate and Senate Standing Committees, and from University Senates Conference. Special SEC Meetings also convened on August 28, 2024 to discuss the UIC Policy on University Public Statements and the UIC Open Expression Policy with Chancellor Marie Lynn Miranda and Provost Karen Colley; on May 27, 2025 to discuss the impact of federal government changes with Chancellor Miranda, Provost Colley and Vice Chancellor Barish; and on June 12, 2025 to discuss Chancellor Miranda’s Annual Evaluation with Timothy Killeen, President.

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**

* Jason Maslanka, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Chief Technology Officer; Sophia Hamilton, Director of the Disability Resource Center; and Peter Berg, ADA Coordinator in the Office of Access and Equity, were guests at the September 26, 2024 Senate meeting and presented information about the Americans with Disability Act Title II changes, which mandate that all the digital content from UIC be accessible to everyone.
* Timothy Killeen, President, was a guest at the December 4, 2024 Senate meeting and reported on enrollment and graduation rate data, UIC research funding levels, the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI), the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress that will take place June 16-19, 2025 in Chicago, the University of Illinois System’s involvement in the legislative review of the IL SB3965, the Adequate and Equitable Funding Formula for Public Universities Act, and steps that the University of Illinois System is taking to address potential challenges posed by President Trump’s administration.
* Matt Riley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Chief Information Officer, and Bryan Libbin, Associate Chief Information Officer for Academic Technology and Learning Innovation, were guests at the January 30, 2025 Senate meeting and discussed the LMS system replacement process because the current system will be retired on June 30, 2026.
* Matthew Fajack, Vice Chancellor for Finance, and Michael Moss, Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Financial Analysis, were guests at the January 30, 2025 Senate meeting and shared an overview of the UIC budget, the status of the UIC Budget Model Redesign, and priority budgetary challenges.
* Gladys Lopez, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, was a guest at the January 30, 2025 Senate meeting and discussed the topic of gender equity in salary.
* Mark Giles, Professor and Department Chair of Educational Policy Studies and UIC Faculty Athletics Representative, was a guest at the March 12, 2025 Senate meeting and presented an overview of the responsibilities of the UIC Faculty Athletics Representative.
* Andrea Williams, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, was a guest at the March 12, 2025 Senate meeting and provided an overview of her mission and vision for Athletics at UIC.
* Bryan Libbin, Associate CIO for Academic Technology and Learning Innovation for Technology Solutions, was a guest at the April 24, 2025 Senate meeting and discussed the transition process to a new Learning Management System (LMS) at UIC.
* Jason Maslanka, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Chief Technology Officer, was a guest at the April 24, 2025 Senate meeting and provided an update on the Americans with Disability Act Title II changes. He also shared support resources available to faculty as they address digital accessibility issues.

**UIC Senate Action/Activities**

* The UIC Senate hosted the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) on September 20, 2024 and the Council of Illinois University Senates meeting on March 28, 2025.
* The UIC Senate provided feedback about the UIC Policy on University Public Statements and the UIC Open Expression Policy.
* The Senate approved proposed revisions to the UIC Senate Bylaws that reflected a transition to more inclusive language, adjusted the number of student and Academic Professional Senators, created a Senate Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, as well as created a Committee on University and Senate Governance.
* The Senate endorsed a Resolution (**SR25.01**), which aimed to inform the Chancellor about the Shared Governance Timeline. During the process of seeking feedback for the UIC Policy on University Public Statements and the UIC Open Expression Policy, concerns were raised reflecting the desire for engaged consultation.
* The Senate endorsed the Requirement for Training in Research Security and Research Integrity Policy.
* The Senate endorsed the Prohibition of Participation in Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs Policy.
* The Senate endorsed proposed revisions to the Student Disciplinary Policy.
* The Senate approved a replacement faculty appointment as the UIC IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Reporting Representative.
* The Senate approved the UIC Senate Resolution in recognition of Vicky Persky (**SR25.03**).
* The Senate approved the UIC Senate Feedback regarding**USC ST83**.
* The Senate approved amendments to **USC ST91/UIC ST24.02**: Faculty Role in Governance.
* The Senate endorsed the Council of Illinois University Senates Resolution on Support for the Western Illinois University Faculty (**SR25.02**).
* The Senate approved feedback on the 502 Remote Work Arrangements for FacultyPolicy**.**
* The UIC Senate approved a motion to provide support of the recommendation that the UIUC Faculty Senate join the Resolution to Establish a Mutual Defense Compact for the Universities of the Big Ten Academic Alliance in Defense of Academic Freedom, Institutional Integrity, and the Research Enterprise and notify the UIUC Senate.
* The UIC Senate approved the Resolution to Endorse the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign and the University of Illinois System Joining the Mutual Defense Compact for the Universities of the Big Ten Academic Alliance in Defense of Academic Freedom, Institutional Integrity, and the Research Enterprise.
* The Senate approved two nominees for an honorary degree.

**Guests at UIC Senate Executive Committee Meetings**

* Ranjan Karri, Director of Academic Affairs and Administrative Operations at the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI), was a guest at the October 16, 2024 SEC meeting and provided an update on the activity of DPI.
* Mike Stieff, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, was a guest at the October 30, 2024 SEC meeting and discussed the involvement of the campus P&T Committee in NTT faculty dossier review.
* Matthew Fajack, Vice Chancellor for Finance, was a guest at the October 30, 2024 and May 14, 2025 SEC meetings and discussed UIC budget related issues with the committee, including the salary program, UIC budget distribution model, Monetary Award Program (MAP) and FederalPell Grant funding.
* Neal McCrillis, Vice Provost for Global Engagement, was a guest at the October 30, 2024 SEC meeting and shared an update on the status of UIC Global and actions underway to increase the enrollment of international students at UIC.
* John Coronado,Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, was a guest at the December 19, 2024 SEC meeting and responded to concerns SEC members had raised about the maintenance and assessment of water quality on campus, particularly in the residence halls.
* Aisha ElAmin, Associate Vice Provost for Student Success and Belonging, and Angela Walden, Visiting Special Advisor on Native Students in the Native American Support Program, were guests at the December 19, 2024 SEC meeting and discussed the resources UIC is planning to provide for the retention of Native American students, primarily from federally recognized tribes.
* Joanna Groden, Vice Chancellor for Research, was a guest at the February 20, 2025 and May 14, 2025 SEC meetings to discuss federal funding changes under the Trump administration.
* Representatives from Ologie, Chevonne Harris, Associate Vice President of Strategy, and Hannah Faust, Project Manager, joined the February 20, 2025 SEC meeting as guests and led a discovery session focused on the creation of a refreshed brand that is authentic and resonates across the UIC community, and improves UIC’s reputation.

**Senate Executive Committee Action/Activities**

* SEC discussed the Public Statements and Open Expression Policies with Marie Lynn Miranda, Chancellor, and Karen Colley, Provost.
* SEC reviewed proposed revisions to the Student Disciplinary Policy.
* SEC approved the Resolution about making the Chancellor aware of Shared Governance Timeline (**SR25.01**)
* SEC reviewed the Requirement for Training in Research Security and Research Integrity Policy.
* SEC reviewed the Prohibition of Participation in Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs Policy.
* SEC discussed involvement of the Campus P&T Committee in NTT faculty dossier review.
* SEC discussed the joint recommendation from the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee and Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee to create an Office of an Ombudsperson.
* SEC reviewed the Conflict Review Committee membership.
* SEC considered the potential impact on UIC of the proposed state legislation SB3965, the Adequate and Equitable Funding Formula for Public Universities Act.
* SEC shared, for informational purposes, the report titled *Division. Extremism. Ideology.* from the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with both the UIC Senate Research Committee and the UIC Senate Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
* SEC considered the Council of Illinois University Senates Resolution on Support for the Western Illinois University Faculty.
* SEC recommended amendments to **USC ST91**: Faculty Role in Governance.
* The Committee considered the 502-Remote Work Arrangements for Faculty Policy.
* The Committee reviewed the Authorship and Acknowledgement in Scholarly or Scientific Publications Policy.
* SEC provided feedback to Matt Riley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Chief Information Officer, about the LMS system replacement.
* SEC contributed to the UIC Senate Feedback about **USC ST83**.
* SEC discussed the current Discovery Partners Institute (DPI) and Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park (IQMP) development plans.
* SEC considered feedback received from the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee, the Senate Educational Policy Committee, and the Senate Academic Services Committee about the issue of UIC’s Support for implementing new web accessibility regulations.
* SEC reviewed two honorary degree nominations.
* SEC reviewed the response from the Senate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committeeabout an item that had been referred to the Committee by SEC related to updating the language in the University Nondiscrimination Policy regarding gender identity.
* The Committee reacted to concerns raised in a letter from the UIC Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change (CCUSC) Faculty Council in response to the new directive on public statements.
* SEC discussed potential UIC Senate involvement in the Resolution to Establish a Mutual Defense Compact for the Universities of the Big Ten Academic Alliance in Defense of Academic Freedom, Institutional Integrity, and the Research Enterprise.
* SEC considered the Procedures for Policy:  #802 – Severe Sanctions Other Than Dismissal for Cause.
* SEC discussed the development of accommodation procedures for students who have had an involuntary change in their visa status that may impede their ability to continue in their educational program.

**Activities of the Senate Standing Committees:**

**Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee** considered the involvement of the campus-wide Promotion and Tenure Committee in non-tenure-track faculty dossier review that SEC had referred to the Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee. The Committee began to review proposed revisions to the Procedures for Policy: #802 – Severe Sanctions Other Than Dismissal for Cause, in response to a request from SEC.

**Senate Academic Services Committee** reviewed the following items that had been referred to the Committee by SEC: Policy about the use of self-authored curriculum materials and UIC support for implementing new web accessibility regulations. The Committee met jointly with members of the Senate Educational Policy Committee to consider an Online / Hybrid Course Policy, in response to a request from SEC.

**Senate Budget, Planning and Priorities Committee** met with Matthew Fajack, Vice Chancellor for Finance, and Michael Moss, Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Financial Analysis, who shared UIC’s priority budgetary challenges and how leadership plans to mitigate them. Gladys Lopez, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, met with the Committee and discussed how UIC is addressing the issue of gender equity in salary.

**Senate Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** considered the involvement of the campus-wide Promotion and Tenure Committee in non-tenure-track faculty dossier review, which had been referred by SEC. The Committee met with Caryn Bills-Windt, Associate Chancellor for Access and Equity, to discuss updating the language in the University Nondiscrimination Policy regarding gender identity, which was an issue SEC had referred to the Committee. The Committee discussed the impact of federal government executive orders on UIC.

**Senate Committee on Educational Policy** reviewed 61 New and Revised programs, 3 Certificate programs, 1 Educational Policy, and 17 General Education Courses. The Committee, also, considered UIC support for implementing new web accessibility regulations, which had been referred by SEC. As a result of further discussion about the Committee’s 2021 UIC Senate approved UIC Senate-Black Lives Matter Statement Action Items, the Committee determined that a Senate resolution supporting new IBHE equity template languagewas no longer necessary. The Committee did update the UIC Senate about the implementation and communication of new academic program change templates. The Committee met jointly with members of the Senate Academic Services Committee to consider an Online / Hybrid Course Policy, in response to a request from SEC.

**Senate External Relations and Public Service Committee** reviewed honorary degree nominations. The Committee participated in a discovery session focused on the creation of a refreshed brand that is authentic and resonates across the UIC community, which was led by representatives from Ologie.

**Senate Faculty Affairs Committee** continued to discuss a proposal for the creation of an Office of an Ombudsperson. The Committee considered UIC support for implementing new web accessibility regulations, which had been referred by SEC. The Committee provided feedback about the “502-Remote Work Arrangements for Faculty” policy, in response to a request from SEC. The Committee considered the involvement of the campus-wide Promotion and Tenure Committee in non-tenure-track faculty dossier review, which had been referred by SEC.

**Senate Research Committee** reviewed the Center for Urban Economic Development, the Energy Resources Center, and the proposal to Establish the Crabtree Institute for Discovery and Sustainability (Temporary). The Committee reviewed the following policies: the Prohibition of Participation in Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs Policy, the Requirement for Training in Research Security and Research Integrity Policy, and the Authorship and Acknowledgement in Scholarly or Scientific Publications Policy. The Committee provided feedback about the issue of UIC support for implementing new solvent rules from USEPA, which had been referred by SEC. Committee Ex Officio member, Joanna Groden,Vice Chancellor for Research, provided the Committee updates about research-related UIC infrastructure problems, the impact of AI on research, and she recommended that university community members regularly check the content of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research website for updates on the impact of federal funding agency changes on UIC research grants. Andy Boyd, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, and Abigail Goben, Associate Professor & Data Management Librarian & Data Policy Advisor, were guests at Committee meetings andshared information about UIC’s data policies titled “Access to Sensitive UIC Sponsored Research Data Policy” and “UIC Research Data Ownership and Stewardship Policy,” some of the current and emerging concerns about AI Tools and Research security, issues related to controlled federal data repositories held by the NIH and federal statistical research data centers, as well as provided an update on the emerging policy changes coming from the Federal government. Shawn Conner, Director of International Affairs and Outreach, joined Committee meetings and discussed some concerns about new and forthcoming Federal, State, and University based regulations, policies, and procedures applicable to researchers. Matt Riley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Chief Information Officer, was a guest at a Committee meeting andshared information about IT’s strategic focus, support of research computing at UIC, collaborative activities with other university research IT leaders, as well as the resource and infrastructure investment challenges that IT is facing. Adam Sorelle, Program Manager at the United States Department of Homeland Security’s Center for Countering Human Trafficking, was a guest at a Committee meeting and discussed how UIC community members can reduce incidents of human trafficking. Committee Ex Officio member, Scott Tharp, Associate Director of Academic Program Review and Assessment, presented an overview of regulatory guidance associated with program review and the Senate Research Committee’s duties and responsibilities related to the academic program review process. Bryan Pabin, Director of Export Controls in OVCR, was a guest at a Committee meeting and discussed current trends in university centered export control. The Committee discussed research related issues associated with the transition to the Trump administration. Jennifer Brier provided an update on the activity of the Antiracist Research Strategies Subcommittee.

**Senate Student Affairs Committee** reviewed proposed changes to the Student Disciplinary Process. Throughout the year, meetings included guest presentations and discussions about campus programs and initiatives that support the Black Lives Matter movement. The committee submitted to SEC recommendations of programs to scale up.

**Senate Student Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention Committee** heard a report from Kiely Fletcher, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, and an Ex Officio member of the Committee, about enrollment, the state of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) notifications from the U.S. Department of Education, and the UIC Aspire grant. The committee discussed current recruiting challenges facing UIC, the federal government’s plan to discontinue the Plus and Parent Plus Loan programs, and the impact on UIC of the dismissal of most of the staff maintaining the IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System). IPEDS is the national data clearinghouse that UIC uses to make data driven decisions regarding student enrollment, recruitment and retention. The Committee actively encouraged faculty to contact elected representatives to continue the Plus and Parent Plus Loan programs, and to participate in UIC Student Recruitment Events.

**Senate Support Services Committee** provided feedback about UIC Research Lab Protocol for Handling Methylene Chloride, which had been referred by SEC. Clarence Bridges, Executive Director of Facilities Management, and Eric Phillips Director of Transportation/Garage Operations, were guests at a meeting and discussed UIC Shuttle Bus and Night Ride service, routes, and frequencies. Tiffany Ruiz, UIC Police Officer, was a meeting guest and shared UIC’s Clery dashboard and an update on UIC crime statistics. Geri Biamonte, Employee Assistance Practitioner, and Danny Michael, Employee Assistance Clinician in the University Health Services, were guests at a meeting and presented on the UIC Employee Assistance Program.

**Senate Committee on University and Senate Governance** contributed to the UIC Senate Feedback about **USC ST-83**, in response to a request by SEC. The Committee considered the involvement of the campus-wide Promotion and Tenure Committee in non-tenure-track faculty dossier review, which had been referred by SEC. The Committee began to review the UIC organization chart to ensure appropriate representation of ex officio members on Senate Standing Committees, which had also been requested by SEC. A discussion took place in several Committee meetings about possible changes to the UIC Senate Standing Rules to speed up routine actions in Senate meetings.

This concludes the report of the UIC Senate for 2024/2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra De Groote

Secretary of the UIC Senate and

Chair of the UIC Senate Executive Committee