Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 20, 2023

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

**June 16, 2023**

**Senate Leadership Team**

Donald Wink (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), Secretary of the Senate & Chair of the Executive Committee

Sandra De Groote (Library), Vice Chair of the Executive Committee & Chair of the Budget, Planning and Priorities Committee

Victoria Persky (School of Public Health), Presiding Officer of the Senate

**Senate Executive Committee**

Sultan Tepe (LAS)

Mitra Dutta (ENGR)

Larry Danziger(PHARM)

Benet DeBerry-Spence (BUS)

Kheir Al-Kodmany (CUPPA)

James Drown (LAS)

Jin Gao(Graduate Student)

George Kondos (MED)

Arthur Acevedo (LAW)

Alexander Eisenschmidt (CADA)

Ashley Shannon (Health and Law Professions Student)

Bita Fayz(DENT)

Dilip Pandey(MED)

Jonathan Klein (MED)

Leah Lebowicz (AHS)

Farid Peiravian (ENGR)

Asa Asad (Undergraduate Student)

Cynthia Fritschi(NURS)

Charles Hounmenou (JACSW)

Milos Zefran (ENGR)

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 at 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 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. Four Special SEC Meetings were also convened. One was to discuss the UIC Chancellor appointment with the Committee. A second was for the purpose of Pre-Decisional Confidential Communication for Purposes of Consultation Under UIC Faculty Affairs Procedure 804. The UIC Procedures for Dismissal of Non-Tenured Faculty w/Multi-Year Contract. A third was to discuss governance issues with Javier Reyes, Interim Chancellor; Karen Colley, Acting Provost; and Robert Barish, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs. And the fourth is to be held 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 February 1, 2023 Senate meeting. He provided an update on the UIC leadership transition and stated that he has been meeting regularly with Marie Lynn Miranda, Chancellor-Elect. He discussed the recent faculty strike at UIC. President Killeen provided an update on the state budget allocation process and capital funding. He reported on the outcome of the recent Economic Impact Analysis, the plan for the recruitment of 300 new faculty members, enrollment, and the status of COVID policies throughout the University of Illinois System.
* Rob Dixon, Interim Vice Chancellor and Vice Provost for Student Affairs, and Raphael Florestal-Kevelier, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Health and Wellness and Executive Director of the UIC Counseling Center, were guests at the October 26, 2022 Senate meeting and discussed mental health resources offered at UIC.
* Chris Keys, UIC State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA) Chapter President, was a guest at the March 16, 2023 UIC Senate meeting and discussed the mission, membership, and recent actions undertaken by SUAA.
* Kirsten Ruby, Director of External Relations and Communications for the University of Illinois System; and Matt Sullard, Associate Director of FOIA for the University of Illinois System Office of University Relations, were guests at the March 16, 2023 UIC Senate meeting and discussed the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and shared best practices

## Senate Action/Activities

* The Senate recommended that the Report of the Senate Taskforce on the Future of Instruction at UIC and its appendices be posted to the UIC Senate website.
* The UIC Senate approved updated Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) membership eligibility requirements.
* The UIC Senate approved proposed revisions to the UIC Senate Bylaws that arose from the UIC Senate Governance Audit and the proposed revision to the UIC Senate Bylaws that provides for the addition of one academic professional senator seat to the SEC.
* The UIC Senate approved the set of UIC Senate comments regarding the proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 following ST-77) (**USC ST-83**).
* The UIC Senate approved the proposed revisions to the UIC Senate Policy on Religious Holidays.
* The UIC Senate discussed the issue of the potential dissolution of the State Universities Retirement System Members Advisory Committee (SURS MAC).
* The Senate approved two nominees for an honorary degree.
* The Senate endorsed the use of proposed language for the use of certain postdoctoral work in Promotion and Tenure papers.
* The Senate endorsed the use of the proposed template in soliciting letters for promotions in the clinical track.
* The Senate approved the Fall Break Proposal to make the Wednesday before Thanksgiving a non-instructional day beginning in the earliest possible fall term.
* The Senate reviewed the Proposed Revisions to University of Illinois System Conflict of Commitment and Interest Policy and Related Policies (**USC OT-386**).
* The Senate reviewed the University of Illinois System Values and Principles (**USC ST-387**).
* The Senate approved the UIC Senate Resolution in recognition of Interim Chancellor Javier Reyes.

## Guests at UIC Senate Executive Committee Meetings

* Timothy Killeen, President, was a guest at the November 16, 2022 SEC meeting and discussed the process for consultation with the University Senates Conference when making higher level administration appointments. He described plans to balance new faculty hires while meeting the inflation demands being placed on currently employed faculty and retain current faculty and their salary requirements. He shared an update about the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI).
* Raphael Florestal-Kevelier, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Health and Wellness and Executive Director of the UIC Counseling Center, was a guest at the September 21, 2022 SEC meeting. He shared his background and discussed mental health resources for students.
* John Coronado, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, and Heather Jackson, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, were guests at the October 19, 2022 SEC meeting and shared the Campus Freezer Survey Results.
* Fred McCall, Interim Dean of Students and Associate Vice Chancellor, and Jess Joslin, Director of the UIC Dialogue Initiative and Diversity Education in the Office of the Dean of Students, were guests at the November 3, 2022 SEC meeting and reviewed the Bias Tool Annual Report.
* Donald Edwards, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, was a guest at the November 16, 2022 SEC meeting and discussed the financial outlook for the University and top priorities for UIC.
* Marie Lynn Miranda, Chancellor-Elect, was a guest at the December 15, 2022 SEC meeting and introduced herself to the Committee.
* Kirsten Ruby, Director of External Relations and Communications for the University of Illinois System, and Matt Sullard, Associate Director of FOIA for the University of Illinois System Office of University Relations, were guests at the January 25, 2023 SEC meeting and provided the Committee an overview about FOIA.

## Senate Executive Committee Action/Activities

* SEC selected faculty to represent the Senate on the Search Committee for the for the Vice Chancellor for Budget, HR and Financial Administration.
* SEC discussed with Provost Reyes procedures for the reorganization of the administrative structure for Student Affairs and related offices and the creation of a position of Vice Chancellor and Vice Provost for Student Affairs.
* SEC reviewed the Report of the Senate Taskforce on the Future of Instruction at UIC.
* SEC coordinated the work of the Senate Standing Committees related to BLM action items and provided the UIC Senate with a thoughtful approach to the proposed matters related to BLM.
* SEC updated the Faculty Advisory Committee faculty eligibility requirements and established a procedure to allow the election of the Committee.
* SEC endorsed the set of proposed revisions to the UIC Senate Bylaws that arose from the UIC Senate Governance Audit and the option of the proposed revision to the UIC Senate Bylaws that provides for the addition of one academic professional senator seat to the SEC.
* SEC provided feedback on the updated handbook language to distinguish the teaching and clinical modifiers for non-tenure track faculty developed by Vice Provost Stieff.
* SEC discussed the proposal for the Annual Review of Vice Chancellors Related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Goals that the Ad Hoc Senate Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion developed and also discussed plans to instead use information collected through UIC’s Advancing Racial Equity initiative as a basis for comment on the work of UIC administrators.
* SEC endorsed the Comment Review Working Group’s feedback document regarding theproposed revisions to the *Statutes* (**USC ST-83**).
* SEC formed a Reading Days Working Group consisting of representatives from the from the Senate Support Services Committee, Senate Faculty Affairs Committee, and the Senate Student Affairs Committee along with student government and university administration. The Working Group developed a Fall Break Proposal that SEC reviewed and endorsed.
* SEC endorsed a Board of Trustees item to approve an extension of the test optional policy to non-Illinois and international residents.
* Ongoing communication took place between the SEC and members of the UIC United Faculty leadership and Bargaining Committee members regarding the UIC United Faculty union collective bargaining agreement issues related to Senate.
* SEC reviewed two honorary degree nominations.
* SEC reconciled the feedback received from the Senate Student Affairs Committee and the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee and approved proposed revisions to the UIC Senate Policy on Religious Holidays.
* SEC reviewed the Proposed Revisions to University of Illinois System Conflict of Commitment and Interest Policy and Related Policies (**USC OT-386**).
* SEC provided feedback about the Proposed Modification to P & T Guidelines for Select UIC Postdoctoral Programs and endorsed a plan to add a NTT member to a subcommittee of the Campus P&T committee to revise its procedures for incorporation of selected postdoctoral work in promotion and tenure dossiers.
* The Committee discussed the issue of the dissolution of the State Universities Retirement System Members Advisory Committee (SURS MAC).
* SEC discussed concerns regarding the UIC mask mandate with administrators.
* SEC reviewed the University of Illinois System Values and Principles (**USC ST-387**).

## Activities of the Senate Standing Committees

**Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee** assessed the Faculty Handbook as it relates to matters concerning the experiences of systemic racism, systemic bias, and exclusion. The Committee reviewed the proposed Modification to Promotion and Tenure Guidelines for Select UIC Postdoctoral Programs that SEC had referred to the Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee. 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. Members served on the Ad Hoc Committee created by Provost Reyes to address the recommendations within the UIC Senate Resolution in support of principles for safe learning environments. The Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee requested that a subcommittee of the Campus Promotion and Tenure Committee be created to work with Mike Stieff, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, to weigh in on the proposed Modification to Promotion and Tenure Guidelines for Select UIC Postdoctoral Programs. Vice Provost Stieff met with the Committee to discuss the challenges the Postdoctoral modification present including an inconsistency in the treatment of Postdocs, the inequity of the recognition of the Postdoctoral work, and the potential adverse effects on UIC’s Bridge to Faculty program.

The Committee reviewed the updated handbook language materials related to Teaching Professor Title Conversion developed by Vice Provost Stieff. The Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs and the Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee met with the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and representatives from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Engagement to discuss a joint statement from the two Committees that included seven recommendations to help mitigate the experiences of racism and systematic bias at UIC.

**Senate Academic Services Committee**, 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. A joint meeting of the Senate Student Affairs Committee and the Senate Academic Services Committee convened to discuss technology assistance to students in need in relation to the Senate's Black Lives Matter statement.

**Senate Committee on Educational Policy** reviewed 53 New and Revised programs, 1 Certificate program, 2 Educational Policies, and 17 General Education Courses. 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. Committee members served as representatives on a committee to change UIC’s program for student evaluation of teaching convened by the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, the the Oversight of Assessment of Teaching Strategies (OATS) Committee. The Committee reviewed changes to the academic and program unit templates. UIC Extended Campus representatives provided the Committee with an update on their collaborations with colleges to develop online versions of existing programs. The Committee established a SCEP Program Review Council for review of existing programs designed by Ranfen Li, Director of Academic Assessment, and Scott Tharp, Associate Director of Academic Program Review and Assessment.

**Senate External Relations and Public Service Committee** reviewed nominations for honorary degrees. 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.

**Senate Faculty Affairs Committee** reviewed the Undergraduate Student Government Resolution regarding Observance of Eid al-Fitr. SEC referred the Fall Break Proposal to the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee for further review. Committee members served as representatives on a committee to change UIC’s program for student evaluation of teaching convened by the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, the the Oversight of Assessment of Teaching Strategies (OATS) Committee. The Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs and the Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee met with the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and representatives from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Engagement to discuss a joint statement from the two Committees that included seven recommendations to help mitigate the experiences of racism and systematic bias at UIC.

**Senate Research Committee** reviewed the Proposed Revisions to University of Illinois System Conflict of Commitment and Interest Policy and Related Policies (USC OT-386) that had been referred from SEC. Feedback from Committee members was incorporated into the selection process for the proposals for new university-funded interdisciplinary institutes. The Committee reviewed the Center for Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomic Research, the Institute for Tuberculosis Research, the Pharmacognosy Institute, the Center for Biomolecular Sciences, and the Child and Family Development Center and Institute on Disability and Human Development. The Committee created an Antiracist Research Strategies Subcommittee. The Committee reviewed the proposal to Establish the Temporary Center for the Recovery and Identification of the Missing (CRIM). A review of the following three temporary Centers was done by the Committee: the Center for Bioinformatics and Quantitative Biology (College of Engineering), the Center for Dissemination and Implementation Science in Health Disparities (College of Medicine), and the Diabetes Center (College of Medicine). The Committee reviewed proposal **CI-23.01**, Institute for Healthcare Delivery Design (Office of the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs) and proposal **CI-23.02**, Center for Population Health, Health Equity, Outcomes and Informatics Research (College of Medicine at Peoria). Vice Chancellor for Research, Joanna Groden, discussed a UIC data stewardship policy with Committee members.

**Senate Student Affairs Committee** met with Rob Dixon, Registrar, and Dana Wright, Director of Academic Program Development in the Office of Programs and Academic Assessment, to provide feedback to the Senate Executive Committee about the attached Undergraduate Student Government Resolution 2021-S6-1104 about Student Mental Health Days. The Committee reviewed the Undergraduate Student Government Resolution regarding Observance of Eid al-Fitr. SEC referred the Fall Break Proposal to the Senate Student Affairs Committee for further review. A joint meeting of the Senate Student Affairs Committee and the Senate Academic Services Committee convened to discuss technology assistance to students in need in relation to the Senate's Black Lives Matter statement. Committee members served as representatives on a re-initiated committee to change UIC’s program for student evaluation of teaching. The new committee will be known as the Oversight of Assessment of Teaching Strategies (OATS) Committee. The Committee met with Raphael Florestal-Kevelier, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Health and Wellness and Executive Director of the UIC Counseling Center, and shared a summary of results from this year's student basic needs survey and discussed the Counseling Center's services for the year.

**Senate Student Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention Committee**, in response to a request from SEC, developed specific suggestions of actions associated with the UIC Senate-Black Lives Matter Statement that can be taken by the UIC Senate.

**Senate Support Services Committee** met with Rob Dixon, Registrar, and Dana Wright, Director of Academic Program Development in the Office of Programs and Academic Assessment, to provide feedback to the Senate Executive Committee about the attached Undergraduate Student Government Resolution 2021-S6-1104 about Student Mental Health Days. 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. A member served on the Space and Capital Planning Committee (SCPC). A member served on the UIC Public Safety Board. Committee members were represented on the Reading Days Working Group that developed the Fall Break Proposal.

**Ad Hoc Senate Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion reviewed feedback for its** proposal for the Annual Review of Vice Chancellors Related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Goals.

This concludes the report of the UIC Senate for 2022-2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald J. Wink, PhD

Chair UIC Senate Executive Committee.