Reported to the Board of Trustees

July 21, 2022

Annual Report of the UIC Senate to the Board of Trustees

June 17, 2022

Senate Leadership Team

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

Farid Peiravian (College of Engineering), 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)

Danilo Erricolo (ENGR)

Larry Danziger(PHARM)

Benet DeBerry-Spence (BUS)

Curt Winkle (CUPPA)

James Drown (LAS)

Trina Fresco(Graduate Student)

George Kondos (MED)

Steve Schwinn (LAW)

Alexander Eisenschmidt (CADA)

Erica Fatima (Health and Law Professions Student)

Bita Fayz(DENT)

Dilip Pandey(MED)

Christine Barber (Graduate Student)

Jonathan Klein (MED)

Karen Patena(AHS)

Jane Darcovich (LIB)

Kathy Sheridan(EDUC)

Amira Anthony (Undergraduate Student)

Cynthia Fritschi(NURS)

Milos Zefran (ENGR)

**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.

Two special meetings of the Senate were held. One, on December 1, 2021, was to complete the process of awarding degrees to students for Fall, 2021 term. Another, on February 16, 2022, was to vote on "Procedures for Selecting a Committee to Advise the President on the Selection of a Chancellor at UIC."

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. There were 8 Special SEC meetings convened, to discuss preparation for the 2021-2022, including plans for periods of online-only instruction, to review "Procedures for Selecting a Committee to Advise the President on the Selection of a Chancellor at UIC," to select a Chair of the Committee to Advise the President on the Selection of a Chancellor at UIC, and for the purpose of discussing the Interim Chancellor position with President Timothy Killeen.

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 January 27, 2022 Senate meeting. He noted the enrollment gains, new facilities, the record number of research awards, and fundraising levels at UIC. The President shared the impact of the SHIELD Illinois program. President Killeen discussed the state budget request. He, also, reported on the search for the new UIC Chancellor.
* Clarisol Duque, State Director for Senator Dick Durbin, was a guest at the January 27, 2022 Senate meeting. She discussed immigration and particularly the way it impacts UIC students, staff and faculty. She outlined the challenges faced by undocumented youth and legislative actions to address the problem. She provided an overview of DACA and the Dream Act.
* Rex Tolliver, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Linda Deanna, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs/Dean of Students, were guests at the March 2, 2022 Senate meeting. They shared what UIC is doing to create a community approach to student mental health and wellbeing and information about how faculty can support students who need mental health resources.
* Karen Colley, Dean of the Graduate College and Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics and Chair of the Committee to Advise the President on the Selection of a Chancellor at UIC, was a guest at the April 21, 2022 Senate meeting and shared an update about the Chancellor Search process.

**Senate Action/Activities**

* To increase engagement in the Senate, the Senate discussed the topic of immigration law and specifically the DREAM Act at the 2022 academic year Senate meetings.
* In order to increase engagement in the Senate, following the presentation by Clarisol Duque, State Director for United States Senator Dick Durbin, before the January 27, 2022 UIC Senate, Senator Fresco (Graduate Student) organized a meeting that included various members of United States Senator Durbin’s team, Vice Chancellor Barish, Susan Bleasdale, Secretary of the UIC Senate Wink, Provost Reyes, Tanya Cabrera, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Inclusion, and Marty Gutierrez, Senior Director of Government Relations and Advocacy, to discuss broader access to care for immigrant communities, the challenges immigrant communities face in healthcare and how they can be addressed, legislation to expand federal opportunities to noncitizens, and UIC’s experience with federal grants that are currently unable to flow to researchers that are noncitizens.
* The Senate ratified the UIC Senate Statement on Support of the Latinx Community.
* Policy 1201-Interim Policy on University Interests in Online Course Material Developed for 2020 Fall Semester and 2021 Spring and Fall Semesters was shared for information.
* The Senate provided feedback regarding the proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 following ST-77) (**USC ST-83**).
* The Senate approved the "Resolution in support of principles for safe learning environments."
* The Senate approved amended "Procedures for Selecting a Committee to Advise the President on the Selection of a Chancellor at UIC" for 2022.
* The Senate selected the members to serve on the Committee to Advise the President on the Selection of a Chancellor at UIC.
* The Senate approved a Motion on Membership to the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Advisory Task Force.
* The Senate approved the Covid Rollback for New Faculty (starting AY 21-22) item.
* The Senate endorsed the Douglas Hall Name Change proposal.
* -The Senate approved four nominees for an honorary degree.
* The Senate approved the UIC Senate Resolution in recognition of Chancellor Michael Amiridis.
* The Senate approved the a Resolution on the Teaching Professor Title Conversion
* The Senate approved the UIC Faculty Senate Statement in Support of Critical Race Theory.

**Guests at UIC Senate Executive Committee Meetings**

* Amalia Pallares, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Engagement, was a guest at the October 7, 2021 SEC meeting and provided background on the development and monitoring Diversity plans at UIC, as well as the UIC equity dashboard.
* Aria Razfar, Chair of the Discovery Partners Institute’s (DPI) Executive Committee, was a guest at the October 7, 2021 SEC meeting and discussed DPI’s vision for the educational activities it offers.
* Joanna Groden, Vice Chancellor for Research, was a guest at the November 3, 2021 SEC meeting and discussed UIC research infrastructure improvements.
* Timothy Killeen, President, and Donald Edwards, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, were guests at the November 17, 2021 SEC meeting. President Killeen discussed the University of Illinois’ COVID mitigation efforts. He announced a five percent increase in student enrollment in fall 2021. The President shared a budget update and the long-range financial plans for the University of Illinois System. He discussed the vision for higher education post-pandemic. President Killeen discussed a faculty recruitment plan underway. He shared an update about the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI). The President discussed the state of the University of Illinois System’s collaborative relationships with the other large universities in Illinois through other initiatives like the Chicago Biomedical Consortium. Chairman Edwards discussed the current political relationships with the state of Illinois and city of Chicago, as well as preparations by the University of Illinois System for the future regarding finances in terms of the costs of increasing salaries with the increase in cost-of-living expenses.
* TJ Augustine, Vice Chancellor for Innovation; Rex Tolliver, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; John Coronado, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services; Michael Ginsburg, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources; and Susan Bleasdale, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Quality & Patient Safety were guests at the January 11, 2022 and January 18, 2022 Special SEC meetings to discuss UIC’s mitigation efforts in response to the Omicron COVID-19 variant.
* Erin O’Leary, Executive Director of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching Excellence (CATE), was a guest at the January 19, 2022 SEC meeting, and discussed how CATE’s work will intersect with the faculty evaluation review process, CATE’s role in providing support for online education and in-person education, and CATE’s Inclusive Teaching Toolkit and Social Justice Education Resources.
* President Killeen and Avijit Ghosh, Interim Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs, were guests at the January 19, 2022 SEC meeting, to initiate the discussion and process for the UIC Chancellor transition and the search.
* Janet Parker, Vice Chancellor for Budget, HR and Financial Administration, was a guest at the February 10, 2022 SEC meeting and provided an overview of the shift in the centralization of the UIC budget regarding how colleges receive funds. She, also, discussed the status of the GEO contract negotiations.
* Susan Bleasdale, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Quality & Patient Safety, was a guest at the February 10, 2022 SEC meeting and shared the impact of UIC’s COVID mitigation strategies.
* TJ Augustine, Vice Chancellor for Innovation, was a guest at the February 10, 2022 SEC meeting and provided an overview of the COVID saliva testing process on campus during the spring semester 2022.
* Ronald Hershow, Director and Associate Professor of Epidemiology SPH Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Natalia Lopez-Yanez, Director of UIC COVID-19 Contact Tracing and Epidemiology Program (CCTEP); and Jocelyn Vaughn, Research Data Scientist SPH Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics; were guests at the February 10, 2022 SEC meeting and provided a contact tracing update.
* Phyllis Baker, Director of Academic Affairs; Venkat Venkatakrishnan, Director of Research; Liang Liu, Interim Director of Capital Programs; and Kumar Kintala, Innovation Hub Director, at the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI), were guests at the February 23, 2022 SEC meeting and provided an overview of the design of the DPI building on The 78, discussed grants that have been received by DPI, and shared DPI’s vision for the educational activities that it offers.
* Jim Hammerschmidt, Associate Vice Provost for Global Engagement, was a guest at the March 31, 2022 SEC meeting and discussed with the Committee how the Office of International Services is handling Optional Professional Training (OPT) and CPT permits.
* Michael Ginsburg, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, was a guest at the March 31, 2022 SEC meeting and discussed the status of GEO contract negotiations.
* Karen Colley, Dean of the Graduate College and Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, was a guest at the April 13, 2022 SEC meeting and discussed Graduate College initiatives.
* Timothy Killeen, President, was a guest at the April 13, 2022 SEC meeting and shared an update on the selection of the Interim Chancellor.
* At the April 29, 2022 Special SEC meeting Timothy Killeen, President, and Avijit Ghosh, Interim Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs, discussed the selection of the Interim Chancellor position.

**Senate Executive Committee Action/Activities**

* The Senate Executive Committee provided feedback and, also, referred the proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 following ST-77) (**USC ST-83**) to the Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee and the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee for further review.
* SEC referred the proposed revisions to the Faculty and Instructional Staff Grievance Procedures to the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee and to the Faculty Advisory Committee for further review.
* SEC solicited representatives to serve on the Classroom Contact Tracing Group that was formed by the Provost.
* The Committee reviewed the Conflict Review Committee membership
* SEC reviewed reports about the April 22, 2021 UIC Senate approved Black Lives Matter Statement Action Items for Committees that had been received from the Senate Standing Committees.
* SEC worked to determine the terms of the members of the Health Affairs Task Force and how the Senate members of the Health Affairs Task Force will be selected.
* SEC reviewed the Undergraduate Student Government Proposal for a Critical Ethnic and Gender Studies General Education Requirement and referred the proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee for additional feedback.
* SEC reviewed the Undergraduate Student Government Resolution 2021-S6-1104 about Student Mental Health Days and referred the resolution to the Senate Support Services Committee and the Senate Student Affairs Committee for additional feedback about the resolution.
* SEC developed the "Resolution in support of principles for safe learning environments."
* SEC endorsed the Resolution Regarding Membership of the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Advisory Task Force.
* SEC revised the "Procedures for Selecting a Committee to Advise the President on the Selection of a Chancellor at UIC" for 2022.
* SEC selected Karen Colley, Dean of the Graduate College and Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, to serve as the chair of the Committee to Advise the President on the Selection of a Chancellor at UIC.
* SEC reviewed four honorary degree nominations.
* SEC endorsed the Covid rollback for new faculty who started during AY 21-22.
* SEC endorsed the Douglas Hall Name Change proposal.
* SEC developed a slate of faculty nominees to serve on the Committee to Advise the President on the Selection of a Chancellor at UIC.
* SEC began to review the Annual Review of Vice Chancellors Related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Goals document.
* SEC received a proposal by Academic Professional Senators for revisions to the the UIC Senate Bylaws related to Academic Professionals.
* SEC reviewed proposed revisions to the UIC Senate Bylaws in connection with an audit and with plans for inclusion of Academic Professional Senators on the SEC.
* SEC selected faculty to represent the Senate on the Budget Redesign Taskforce.
* SEC discussed with Provost Reyes procedures about working with faculty grievances in the University of Illinois Statutes Article IX, Section 6
* SEC discussed writing a letter of concern about the development of a casino in Site 78. SEC decided to discuss the issue further at an upcoming SEC meeting.
* SEC endorsed the Teaching Professor Title Conversion UIC Senate Resolution.
* SEC endorsed the UIC Faculty Senate Statement in Support of Critical Race Theory that the Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee had developed.
* SEC discussed the concerns raised by the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities (CCSPD) and UIC United Faculty about the renovation to the Quad on East Campus.

**Activities of the Senate Standing Committees**

**Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee** provided feedback regarding the proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 following ST-77) (**USC ST-83**). The Committee developed the UIC Faculty Senate Statement in Support of Critical Race Theory. 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.

**Senate Academic Services Committee** members served on the Classroom Contact Tracing Group developed by Provost Reyes. 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 Budget, Planning and Priorities Committee** met with Janet Parker, Vice Chancellor of Budget, HR and Financial Administration, to discuss how the MacKenzie Scott endowment money will be used and whether current funding models within the state and the U of I system may not account for the additional costs associated with UIC’s work to provide excellent and accessible education to Illinois students, particularly those with high financial need. Bill Hayward, Associate Vice Provost and Director of the Office of Institutional Research, and Kiely Fletcher, Executive Director of the Financial Aid Office, shared with the Committee data and statistics on the enrollment of black students and about the funding/scholarship the students have received. The Committee Chair served as a member of the UIC Budget Model Redesign Taskforce.Janet Parker, Vice Chancellor for Budget, HR and Financial Administration, and Michael Moss, Associate Vice Chancellor of Budget and Financial Analysis, provided the Committee a general overview of the UIC budget and discussed the topic of the UIC Budget Model Redesign Task Force. 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 Committee on Educational Policy** reviewed 55 New and Revised programs, 4 Certificate programs, and 25 General Education Courses. SEC referred the Undergraduate Student Government Proposal for a Critical Ethnic and Gender Studies General Education Requirement to the Senate Educational Policy Committee and the General Education Council, in particular, for further review. 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 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** provided feedback regarding the proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 following ST-77) (**USC ST-83**). The Committee met with Amalia Pallares, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Engagement, to learn about the ongoing and new university efforts to improve minority representation at all levels of the university- students, staff and faculty. SEC referred the proposed revisions to the Faculty and Instructional Staff Grievance Procedures to the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee for further review. Filip Przybysz, Communications Coordinator in the Office of Organizational Effectiveness of the University of Illinois System – Office of the Chief Financial Officer; Jim Martinie, Senior Director of University Payables; and members of the UPAY Demo Team met with the Committee to receive feedback about the University of Illinois TEM replacement, Chrome River Software. Committee members served on the Classroom Contact Tracing Group developed by Provost Reyes. 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 Committee examined the Teaching Professor Title Conversion issue. 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.

**Senate Research Committee** implemented a program review process of both the Institute on Disability and Human Development and the Child and Family Development Center. The Committee reviewed and expressed its support for the proposal to establish the temporary Center for the Advancement of Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research (CAIPPER). The Committee met with Joanna Groden, Vice Chancellor for Research and Ex Officio member, who provided the Committee with an update on UIC’s research infrastructure and research grant funding opportunities. Members participated in Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research meetings regarding the development of Policy on Conflict of Commitment and Interest procedures. The Committee requested to be involved in the process of evaluating the proposals for the four new interdisciplinary Institutes that the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Research had a call for proposals out for with a submission deadline of May 2022. 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 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. Rex Tolliver, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Linda Deanna, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs/Dean of Students, met with the Committee to discuss the assistance available for students to help them cope with the pandemic and the occasional online learning. 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 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. The ad hoc calendar committee of the Senate Support Services Committee was convened to review academic calendars.

**Ad Hoc Senate Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** collaborated with Amalia Pallares, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Engagement, and Bill Hayward, Associate Vice Provost and Director of the Office of Institutional Research, to implement a Campus Climate Survey in the coming year. The Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairs served as Senate representatives on the Campus Climate Survey general task force. The Ad Hoc Committee developed a draft proposal for the annual evaluation of Vice Chancellors related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

This concludes the report of the UIC Senate for 2021-2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald J. Wink, PhD

Chair UIC Senate Executive Committee.