

University Senates Conference
2009-2010 Annual Report
July 22, 2010

The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs provides secretarial and budgetary support for the twenty-member University Senates Conference (USC), which currently consists of ten faculty members elected from the UIUC Senate, seven faculty members elected from the UIC Senate, and three faculty members elected from the UIS Senate, for three-year terms. The Conference reviews and, when necessary, coordinates the actions of the three senates. Another important function is to serve in an advisory capacity to the President. From August 2009 through July 2010, the Conference held ten regular meetings and a retreat.

The members of the University Senates Conference Executive Committee for 2009-2010 were: Kathryn Eisenhart, Chair; Matthew Wheeler, Vice Chair; Donald Chambers; Carol Massat; Tih-Fen Ting; and Joyce Tolliver.

University of Illinois policies, procedures, and other issues of concern were discussed with President B. Joseph White, Interim President Stanley Ikenberry, and Vice President for Academic Affairs Mrinalini Rao during monthly executive sessions. Vice Presidents Avijit Ghosh and Walter Knorr also participated in some of these sessions. Topics discussed during the executive sessions included budget issues, furloughs, pension reform, admissions reform, time reporting for faculty, shared governance, accelerated degree initiatives, and activities of the Administrative Review and Restructuring Working Group.

Guests at the meetings included Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares, Trustee Karen Hasara, Trustee Christopher Kennedy, Chancellor Richard Ringeisen, Trustee Pamela Strobel, and Trustee Carlos Tortolero.

Following is a proposed change to the University of Illinois *Statutes* that was approved in 2009-2010.

ST-74. Proposed Amendment to the *Statutes*, Article I, Section 2. Term used to clarify the role of the President. Transmitted to Senates November 2009. Endorsed UIS Senate December 2009. Accepted by UIC Senate December 2009. Approved UIUC Senate February 2010. Approved by the Board of Trustees March 10, 2010.

Amends the language to read, “The president is the chief executive officer of the University...”

Following are proposed changes to the University of Illinois *Statutes* that remained on the Conference’s agenda during 2009-2010.

ST-66. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article VIII. First version passed by the UIUC Senate April 2006. Additional revisions passed UIS Senate February 2009; passed UIC Senate April 2009; passed UIUC Senate April 2009; transmitted to the President May 2009. Additional revisions passed UIUC Senate March 2010. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates April 2010. Endorsed UIS Senate April 2010.

The proposed language clarifies ambiguities governing formation and other changes in the organization of academic units and establishes a definition of “tenure home”. UIS and UIUC Senates have approved language. The UIC Senate plans to have a second reading in the fall.

ST-72. Consideration of the language in the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 2 (Academic Freedom)

UIUC Senate committees have been working on proposed revisions to the language.

Following is a proposed change to *The General Rules* that was approved in 2009-2010.

GR-40. Proposed Revisions to *The General Rules*, Article III, Sections 1-4. Proposed revisions to bring into place current terminology relating to patents, copyrightable works and recordings.

Representatives from the Senates Conference worked with the University Intellectual Property Committee to make revisions that clarify courseware ownership. The final version was approved by the Board of Trustees on September 10, 2009.

Following is a proposal to consider changes to *The General Rules* that remained on the Conference’s agenda in 2009-2010.

GR-41. Review of language in *The General Rules*, Article V, Section 3 – Private Use of University Property Forbidden.

The Conference reviewed the language and considered whether changes should be made to reflect common practices that are currently in violation of *The General Rules* and to consider the appropriate use of university resources. The issue is on hold.

Following are other items that were active on the Conference’s agenda in 2009-2010.

OT-167. Faculty Representation to the Board of Trustees.

In June 2000, the Resolution on Faculty Representation to the Board of Trustees was transmitted to the President who in turn forwarded the resolution to the Board. The resolution, which was developed by the Conference and approved by each senate, requests a faculty voice from each campus at the Board table. (This resolution was also transmitted to Dr. Ikenberry in December 2009.) In June 2001, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Gerald Shea, informed the Conference that he intended to assign three Trustees to each campus to serve as liaisons. While this arrangement seemed to be beneficial, the Conference did not consider it a substitute for having a faculty voice at the Board table. In December 2004, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Lawrence Eppley, recommended that the Chair of the Board’s Academic Affairs Committee meet with the senate and Senates Conference observers before regular Board meetings. All involved were pleased with the process. This process ended in the fall of 2009. Currently, the senate and Senates Conference observers try to attend the meetings of the Board’s Academic and Student

Affairs Committee, which are usually held the day before the regular Board meetings. Also, the Senates Conference was invited to get give a presentation at each Board meeting, beginning in March 2010. In addition, the Conference occasionally invites trustees to meet with USC members at its meetings.

OT-211. Process for Selecting Board of Trustees Members.

In March 2005, the Conference reviewed various documents from the Association of Governing Boards concerning this topic. In September 2009, the Conference met with Mr. Ted Chung, General Counsel, and Ms. Julie Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff for Education, from the Governor's office to discuss the selection process that was being used for new Board members. The Conference was told that there would be an ongoing discussion of the selection process. Attempts to continue this discussion have been unsuccessful.

OT-223. Annual Review of the Vice Presidents.

The Conference created subcommittees to conduct a review of each vice president and then the Conference reported to the President in August 2009. No review is planned for this summer.

OT-231. Shared Governance Issues.

The Conference approved a document, USC Faculty Perspective on Shared Governance at the University of Illinois, prepared by a subcommittee of the Conference. The document was sent to certain administrators and groups in Fall 2006. The Conference continues to advocate shared governance.

OT-247. USC Budget.

The Conference considered ways to conduct business more responsibly in view of the budget situation. The group decided to hold more videoconferences in order to reduce travel expenses, reduce overnight trips, have the retreat at a less costly location, and eliminate the usual three dinners – one on each campus – held the evening before the regular USC meeting on the campus.

OT-256. Positive Time Reporting.

State ethics laws require all state employees to report the number of hours worked. This issue has been a topic of discussion in regards to how time reporting relates to the faculty and the difficulties and consequences that could occur from applying such a requirement to the faculty.

OT-259. Conflict of Commitment and Interest Policy.

Vice President Rao plans to transmit a policy with proposed revisions to USC this summer. The policy will be transmitted to the senates and needs to be finalized by summer 2011 to meet the requirements of the auditors.

OT-260. University Information Security Policy.

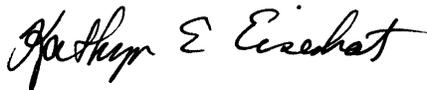
The University Technology Management Team approved an interim University Information Security Policy. UTMT will coordinate this policy, which requires approval and implementation at the campus level. The UIS Senate endorsed the policy and the UIUC Senate Executive Committee endorsed the policy with some typographical corrections. The UIC Senate referred the policy to three committees and all but one has reported.

The Conference continued to send observers to each Board of Trustees meeting. Conference members represented the faculty with seats on the Academic Affairs Management Team, External Relations Management Team, Technology and Economic Development Cabinet, and the University Technology Management Team.

Following are items that the Conference has identified as important issues to consider during the upcoming academic year: implementation of the report of the Administrative Review and Restructuring Working Group; centralization of the University and the autonomy of the campuses; the effect of the budget on hiring, retention, teaching and research; and shared governance issues.

This report was prepared by Connie Sailor, the Conference's able administrative secretary.

Respectfully submitted



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Chair 2009-2010
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