Reported to the Board of Trustees

July 22, 2021

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

**June 18, 2021**

**Senate Leadership Team**

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

Mary Jo LaDu (MED), Vice Chair of the Executive Committee & Chair of the Budget, Planning and Priorities Committee

Donald Wink (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), Presiding Officer of the Senate

**Senate Executive Committee**

Sultan Tepe (LAS)

Danilo Erricolo (ENGR)

Larry Danziger (PHARM)

Benet DeBerry-Spence (BUS)

Curt Winkle (CUPPA)

Andrew Young (LAS)

Melissa Macero (Graduate Student)

George Kondos (MED)

Steve Schwinn (LAW)

Alexander Eisenschmidt (CADA)

James Edwards (Health and Law Professions Student)

Chuck Le Hew (DENT)

Ritesh Jagatramka (Graduate Student)

Fernando Testai (MED)

Karen Patena (AHS)

Victoria Persky (SPH)

Michael Thomas (EDUC)

Isabel Calderon (Undergraduate Student)

Catherine Vincent (NURS)

Mitra Dutta (ENGR)

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 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 14 meetings. The SEC acted on items forwarded from the Senate and Senate Standing Committees, and from University Senates Conference. Three Special SEC Meetings, also, convened to discuss issues related to the COVID-19 outbreak and the impact of systemic racism and police brutality on the UIC community.

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**

* President Killeen was a guest at the January 28, 2021 Senate meeting. He discussed the University budget, Discovery Partners Institute (DPI), advocacy efforts of the University of Illinois System to change the State Universities Civil Service System (SUCCS) policies that often add burdensome regulations that impede the hiring process, how the University of Illinois System is addressing issues of racial inequities and structural racism, and the mental health concerns of students, faculty and staff.
* Susan Bleasdale, Medical Director of the Infection Control Department, was a guest at the January 28, 2021 Senate meeting. She discussed COVID testing provided by UI Health, the COVID vaccination process, and the monoclonal antibody treatment being provided to patients at the University of Illinois Hospital.

**Senate Action/Activities**

* The Senate ratified the UIC Senate-Black Lives Matter Statement.
* To increase engagement in the Senate, the Senate discussed issues related to anti-racism that fall within the purview of shared governance.
* The UIC Senate Safety Task Force Report was shared for information with the Senators.
* Provost Poser’s Requested Memorandum addressing Senate Resolution on Emergency Policy and Procedure Decisions (**SR-20.02**) dated July 19, 2020 was shared for information with the Senators.
* The Interim Policy on University Interests in Online Course Material Developed for 2020 Fall Semester that was approved in July 2020 by the Senate Executive Committee through an online vote was shared for information with the Senators.
* Senators were represented on the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs’ 5-year review Committee, the Provost’s 5-year review Committee, and the search committee for the Vice Chancellor for Strategic Marketing and Communications.
* The Senate approved the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article III, Sections 3 and 5, and Article VI –Dean, Director, or Campus Librarian (**USC ST-86**).
* The Senate endorsed the UIC Senate Resolution Regarding Use of Assessment Monitoring Software (**SR-21.01**).
* The UIC Senate’s Joint Committee Report on Student Evaluations of Teaching was shared for information with the Senators.
* Senators provided feedback on the Policy on Integrity in Research and Publication (**USC OT-366**).
* The Undergraduate Student Government resolution was shared for information with the Senators.
* The Senate approved, on behalf of the Senate Research Committee, **CI-21.01**, Proposal to Eliminate the City Design Center.
* The Senate approved the Future of Instruction at UIC Taskforce charge.
* The Senate approved a motion supporting a second year of tenure rollbacks related to the impact of COVID-19.
* The Senate approved a motion that tenure rollbacks be automatic for those that submit requests related to COVID-19.
* The Senate approved the Summary of Proposed Modifications to P & T Guidelines, and the Personal Statement of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
* The Senate approved the charge for a proposed UIC Police Advisory Committee developed by the Senate Support Services Committee.
* The Senate approved the COVID-19 Statement for Annual Reviews.
* The Senate approved the COVID-19 Statement for P&T Dossiers.
* The Senate approved the Senate Statement on Faculty Evaluations for Academic Year 2020/2021.
* The Senate approvedthree motions related to sabbaticals and teaching relief for the improvement of instruction.
* The Senate approved UIC Senate-Black Lives Matter Statement action items.
* The Senate ratified the UIC Senate Anti-Asian Racism Statement.

The Senate approved the Senate Statement on Faculty Evaluations for Academic Year 2020/2021 **(Revised)**.

* The Senate approved three nominees for an honorary degree.
* The Senate approved the Resolution of the UIC Senate honoring the service and contributions of Susan Poser to the University of Illinois at Chicago.
* The Senate approved the UIC Senate Resolution in recognition of Professor Sandy De Groote.

**Guests at UIC Senate Executive Committee Meetings**

* Janet Linn, International Medicine Fellowship Director in the Department of Emergency Medicine, was a guest at the August 5, 2020 Special SEC meeting and discussed the report titled “UI Health Incident Command Report Status, Testing, and PPE.”
* Joanna Groden, Vice Chancellor for Research, was a guest at the September 3, 2020 SEC meeting and provided an overview of research at UIC and shared metrics related to the research activity at UIC.
* Janet Parker, Associate Chancellor for Budget and Financial Administration, was a guest at the September 3, 2020 SEC meeting and provided background about the significant increase in fringe benefits for the 2021 academic year.
* Kevin Booker, Chief of Police, was a guest at the September 16, 2020 SEC meeting. Heexplained how the UIC Police Department has addressed the issues listed within the UIC Senate Safety Task Force document titled “Priorities and Possible Strategies after Reviewing Data Gathered at Town Hall and Task Force Meetings." He discussed the relationship between the Chicago Police Department and the UIC Police Department. Chief Booker discussed how the UIC Police Department is addressing the Black Lives Matter movement. He discussed the newly established UIC Public Safety Board with the Committee.
* John Coronado, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, and David Ibrahim, Assistant Vice Chancellor for the Office of Preparedness and Response, were guests at the October 14, 2020 SEC meeting and provided an update on the UIC SAFE app.
* Joanna Groden, Vice Chancellor for Research, was a guest again at the October 29, 2020 SEC meeting. She described COVID related UIC research. Vice Chancellor Groden discussed communications released about re-opening labs during the pandemic. She shared an update on BIO Raft, the Research Resources Center (RRC), and the increase in fringe benefits for the 2021 academic year.
* President Killeen was a guest at the November 11, 2020 SEC meeting. He discussed COVID protocols throughout the University of Illinois system. He discussed the transition to online pedagogy due to the pandemic. President Killeen reviewed how the University of Illinois system is addressing the mental health issues that university community members have related to the pandemic. He shared how the University of Illinois system is addressing Black Lives Matter related issues. The President provided an update on the budget situation.
* Michael Ginsburg, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, and Cheri Canfield, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, were guests at the January 20, 2021 SEC meeting. They discussed steps being taken to reduce the length of time that it takes to hire new employees at UIC.
* TJ Augustine, Vice Chancellor for Innovation, was a guest at the April 14, 2021 SEC meeting. He shared the new plan for strategic investment in UIC’s data and voice network, data centers, and research computing infrastructure, and he provided an update on the Extended Campus.

**Senate Executive Committee Action/Activities**

* SEC approved the College of Applied Health Sciences' request that Occupational Therapy students be allowed to officially graduate October 9, 2020 instead of during the summer 2020 due to COVID-19 circumstances.
* At a July 9, 2020 Special SEC meeting the Committee rescinded the Senate Resolution on Emergency Policy and Procedure Decisions (**SR-20.02**).
* SEC approved the Interim Policy on University Interests in Online Course Material Developed for 2020 Fall Semester.
* SEC approved the August 2020 SEC Teaching on Campus Statement that the faculty can unconditionally opt in or out of teaching on campus for COVID-19 related circumstances.
* SEC approved the UIC Senate Statement on Black Lives Matter.
* SEC members provided feedback on the syllabus template recommendations developed by Erin O’ Leary, the new Executive Director for UIC's Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), on creating resources to support faculty in their various modalities of teaching this fall.
* SEC approved a motion to send a statement to Chancellor Amiridis and Provost Poser stating that SEC enthusiasticallysupports the extension of the Interim Policy on University Interests in Online Course Materials Developed for 2020 Fall Semester, to the Spring 2021 semester.
* SEC referred the Undergraduate Student Government Resolution Ban of Webcam Monitoring Spyware in Academic Programs to the Senate Educational Policy Committee, the Senate Academic Services Committee, and the Senate Student Affairs Committee.
* SEC endorsed the UIC Senate Resolution Regarding Use of Assessment Monitoring Software (**SR-21.01**).
* SEC referred the CR/NC petition Fall 2020 term issue to both the Senate Educational Policy Committee and the Senate Student Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention Committee. SEC agreed that the Committees’ feedback on the CR/NC petition Fall 2020 term issue should be provided to Provost Poser.
* SEC failed to endorse the Progressive Grading System for Online Learning Undergraduate Student Government Resolution(2020-F06-1103).
* Following a review of the policy, SEC recommended that the special policy that was endorsed by SEC for Spring 2020 related to faculty evaluations be extended through spring 2021, but if candidates want to include teaching evaluations as part of their dossiers they can.
* SEC reviewed the Policy on Integrity in Research and Publication (**USC OT-366**).
* SEC reviewed the Summary of Proposed Modifications to P & T Guidelinesthat focuses on Department and College voting rights and, also, theaddition of a Personal Statement of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to the P & T Dossier.
* SEC reviewed the UIC Senate’s Joint Committee Report on Student Evaluations of Teaching.
* SEC developed an ad hoc Senate Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
* SEC endorsed converting D’s and F’s into CR and NC, respectively, in Fall 2020.
* SEC developed a Taskforce on the Future of Instruction at UIC.
* SEC approved a motion to request a second year of tenure rollbacks related to the impact of COVID-19.
* SEC approved a motion that tenure rollbacks be automatic for those that submit requests related to COVID-19.
* SEC endorsed a request to provide COVID-19 relief funding for Basic and Clinical Junior Faculty Research Laboratories.
* SEC approved the charge for a proposed UIC Police Advisory Committee developed by the Senate Support Services Committee.
* SEC endorsed the Joint Statement from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Faculty Senate and Faculty Association on inclusion in 1B vaccine group.
* SEC reviewed three honorary degree nominations.
* SEC approved the COVID-19 Statement for P&T Dossiers.
* SEC approved the COVID-19 Statement for Annual Reviews.
* SEC approved three motions related to sabbaticals and teaching relief for the improvement of instruction for action.
* SEC approved the UIC Senate Anti-Asian Racism Statement.
* SEC referred the Undergraduate Student Government Resolution 2021-S6-1104 about Student Mental Health Days to the Senate Support Services Committee and to the Senate Student Affairs Committee for consideration.
* SEC developed a revised version of the Senate Statement on Faculty Evaluations for Academic Year 2020/2021 **(Revised)**.

**Activities of the Senate Standing Committees**

**Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee** at the request of SEC examined the issue of Faculty evaluations during the fall semester and the issue of extension of tenure rollback. SEC referred the Summary of Proposed Modifications to P & T Guidelinesthat focuses on Department and College voting rights and, also, theaddition of a Personal Statement of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to the P & T Dossier. 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 Academic Services Committee** reviewed the Undergraduate Student Government Resolution Ban of Webcam Monitoring Spyware in Academic Programs that had been referred by SEC.

**Senate Budget, Planning and Priorities Committee** met with Janet Parker, Associate Chancellor for Budget and Financial Administration, and Michael Moss, Assistant Chancellor and Director of the Office of Budget and Financial Analysis, who educated the Committee members about UIC's budget and to share information about the FY 2022 budget. The Committee, also, had a meeting that included Todd Van Neck, Associate Dean for Administration in the College of Medicine, who addressed the Committee’s questions regarding the current budget.

**Senate Committee on Educational Policy** reviewed 85 New and Revised programs, 6 Certificate programs, and 17 General Education Courses. The Committee reviewed one Educational Policy: **EP-21.01,** Proposal to Revise the Graduate College Limits on Transfer Credit Policy. The Committee reviewed the following issues that had been referred by SEC: the Undergraduate Student Government Resolution Ban of Webcam Monitoring Spyware in Academic Programs, the topic of how COVID has changed the curriculum that is offered and how the curriculum is delivered, the CR/NC petition Fall 2020 term issue, and the Undergraduate Student Government Proposal for a Critical Ethnic and Gender Studies General Education Requirement. 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 honorary degree nominations. The Committee Ex Officios, Theresa Mintle, Interim Vice Chancellor for Public and Government Affairs, and Sherri McGinnis Gonzalez, Senior Executive Director for Public Affairs and Interim Vice Chancellor for Strategic Marketing and Communications provided regular updates to the Committee about activities in their offices.

**Senate Faculty Affairs Committee** at the request of SEC examined the issue of Faculty evaluations during the fall semester and the issue of extension of tenure rollback. SEC referred the Summary of Proposed Modifications to P & T Guidelinesthat focuses on Department and College voting rights and, also, theaddition of a Personal Statement of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to the P & T Dossier. 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 Research Committee** implemented a program review process of the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy. The Committee approved **CI-21.01**, Proposal to Eliminate the City Design Center. The Committee met with Joanna Groden, Vice Chancellor for Research and Ex Officio member, who shared information related to her office with the Committee members. SEC referred to the Senate Research Committee the Policy on Integrity in Research and Publication (**USC OT-366**) for feedback. 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** reviewed the Undergraduate Student Government Resolution Ban of Webcam Monitoring Spyware in Academic Programs that had been referred by SEC. 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** reviewed the CR/NC petition Fall 2020 term 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.

**Senate Support Services Committee** in response to a referral from SEC, the Senate Support Services Committee work to create a charge for a UIC Police Advisory Committee. The Committee developed specific suggestions of actions associated with the UIC Senate-Black Lives Matter Statement that can be taken by the UIC Senate, in response to a request from SEC.

This concludes the report of the UIC Senate for 2020-2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra De Groote, MLIS, AHIP, MEd

Chair UIC Senate Executive Committee.