

Annual Report of the UIC Senate to the Board of Trustees

June 23, 2020

Senate Leadership Team

Catherine Vincent (College of Nursing), 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

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

Senate Executive Committee

Sultan Tepe (LAS)	Linda Kaste (DENT)
Danilo Erricolo (ENGR)	Biswajit Maharathi (Graduate Student)
Larry Danziger (PHARM)	Mary Jo LaDu (MED)
Benet DeBerry-Spence (BUS)	Karen Patena (AHS)
Jim Thompson (CUPPA)	Kiran Velpula (MED)
Andrew Young (LAS)	Victoria Persky (SPH)
Maria Escamilla (Graduate Student)	Michael Thomas (EDUC)
Min Joo (MED)	Elizabeth Flores (Undergraduate Student)
Cecil Hunt (JMLS)	Mitra Dutta (ENGR)
Alexander Eisenschmidt (CADA)	Milos Zefran (ENGR)
Viveka Patel (Health and Law Professions Student)	

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 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

- Joanna Groden, Vice Chancellor for Research, shared her research vision and provided an overview of the research organization at UIC at the September 25, 2019 meeting.
- At the December 5, 2019 meeting Timothy Killeen, President, discussed the University's state budget request, the five year strategic plan developed for system wide faculty recruitment, the new business plan for Discovery Partners Institute (DPI), and the "University of Illinois System Guiding Principles."
- Cynthia Herrera Lindstrom, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Office and HIPAA Privacy and Security Officer, was a guest at the April 22, 2020 Senate meeting during which she shared data on usage of Blackboard, virtual classrooms and online proctoring during the pandemic. She, also, discussed ACCC's 2020 direction, recent accomplishments and changes to the IT Governance Council.

Senate Action/Activities

- To increase engagement in the Senate, the Senate discussed the topic of mental health resources related to both students and faculty at the September 25, 2019 Senate meeting.
- A faculty Senator was selected to serve on the internal search committee for the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR).
- At the December 5, 2019 UIC Senate meeting Chancellor Amiridis assigned the UIC Senate to form a task force that includes students, staff members and faculty members to, within a quick time frame, look specifically at and make recommendations about how to communicate most effectively with the community members about the available safety measures on campus, as well as to consider some changes that may be needed. The Safety Task Force developed a report.

- The Senate endorsed the UIC Senate’s Resolution on Student Evaluations of Teaching (**SR 20.01**).
- The Senate approved an amended version of the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4 - Changes in Existing Units (**USC ST-84**).
- The Senate approved the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II, Section 3 – Faculty Role in Governance, and Article X, Section 2 – Academic Freedom (**USC ST-72**).
- The Senate was presented the opportunity to provide feedback to the Board of Trustees on the proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (**USC ST-77**).
- The Senate approved the UIC Senate Resolution in recognition of Associate Professor Catherine Vincent.
- The Senate approved the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, ARTICLE X (Academic Freedom and Tenure), Section 1 (a), 6 and 7 to permit the use of five-year appointments for non-tenure track faculty (**ST-20.01**).
- Senators provided feedback on the University of Illinois System Policies on Intimate Personal Relationships and Sexual Misconduct in Prior Employment (**USC OT-365**).
- The Senate endorsed the Proposal to Revise the University Policy on Class Attendance.
- The Senate approved, on behalf of the Senate Research Committee, **CI-20.01**, Proposal to Rename the UIC Center for Botanical Dietary Supplements Research as the Pharmacognosy Institute.
- The Senate approved three nominees for an honorary degree.

Guests at UIC Senate Executive Committee Meetings

- TJ Augustine, Vice Chancellor for Innovation, attended the October 3, 2019 Committee meeting and shared his vision for Innovation at UIC. He, also, responded to questions SEC members raised about the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI).
- SEC met with Donald Edwards, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Timothy Killeen, President on November 13, 2019. Chairman Edwards shared his background and vision for the University of Illinois system. President Killeen discussed the state budget appropriation, the philanthropic campaign, the plan to hire new faculty across the system, the integration of John Marshall Law School into UIC, and the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI).
- John Coronado, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, was a guest at the January 22, 2020 and March 13, 2020 meetings at which he discussed safety and security measures on campus, as well as the limited availability of parking on the west side of campus for faculty and staff members. He, also, provided the Committee updates on the novel coronavirus.
- Tom Wamsley, Vice Chancellor for Advancement, participated in the March 11, 2020 meeting and shared his background, an overview of UIC Advancement, and his vision for Advancement at UIC.
- Bill Jackson, Interim Director of the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI), was a guest at the April 2, 2020 meeting during which he explained the governance structure for DPI and particularly about faculty representation from all three universities on the DPI Committees/Work Groups. He provided an update about how Intellectual Property is

handled within DPI. Bill Jackson described how courses are identified and offered at DPI. He described the financial arrangements for courses offered within DPI for faculty and for the units. How the ICR is distributed and who gets the credit from the grants received by DPI faculty was, also, discussed by Bill Jackson. He described current and projected funding for DPI.

- Joanna Groden, Vice Chancellor for Research, participated in the June 10, 2020 meeting and shared information about the committees developed to assist with the transition of research back to campus, as well as the strategy for the transition of research back on campus.

Senate Executive Committee Action/Activities

- SEC reviewed the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4 – Changes in Existing Units (**USC ST-84**). SEC developed an amended version of the proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (**USC ST-84**) that was approved by the UIC Senate.
- SEC developed the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, ARTICLE X (Academic Freedom and Tenure), Section 1 (a), 6 and 7 to permit the use of five-year appointments for non-tenure track faculty (**ST-20.01**).
- SEC considered the issue of whether or not non-tenure track faculty should be eligible for sabbaticals. SEC referred the item to both the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee and Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee for further review.
- SEC developed the UIC Senate’s Resolution on Student Evaluations of Teaching.
- SEC worked to implement the recommendations from the University of Illinois at Chicago Senate Governance Audit.
- SEC began to review of the UIC Senate Bylaws, as a result of the recently completed UIC Senate governance audit process.
- SEC discussed the current UIC Faculty Grievance Procedures and a related concern about the academic freedom protections provided within the *Statutes*.
- SEC discussed how to improve engagement in the Senate, specifically how to increase attendance at Senate meetings.
- To increase engagement in the Senate, SEC continued to discuss with J. Rex Tolliver, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Linda Deanna, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs/Dean of Students; Joe Hermes, Director of the Counseling Service; and Kevin Booker, Chief of Police the topic of mental health resources related to both students and faculty from the September 25, 2019 Senate meeting.
- SEC referred the confidential Sexual Misconduct Task Force Recommendations Draft to the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee for further review.
- SEC reviewed the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II, Section 3 – Faculty Role in Governance, and Article X, Section 2 – Academic Freedom (**USC ST-72**).
- SEC discussed recommendations about how to communicate most effectively with the community members about the available safety measures on campus, as well as to consider some changes that may be needed in response to a request made by Chancellor Amiridis at the December 5, 2019 UIC Senate meeting that the UIC Senate to form a safety task force that includes students, staff members and faculty members. The Safety Task Force developed a report.

- SEC members provided feedback to the UIC Chief of Police, Kevin Booker, about the UIC Security Camera Policy.
- SEC members talked with Janet Parker, Associate Chancellor for Budget and Financial Administration, regarding the involvement of the UIC Senate Budget, Planning and Priorities Committee with the University’s budget plan development process.
- SEC reviewed the proposed revisions to the *Statutes (USC ST-77)*.
- SEC approved moving three candidates forward for consideration by the Senate.
- SEC suggested improvements to the Proposal to Revise the University Policy on Class Attendance.
- At Special SEC meetings Michael Amiridis, Chancellor; Susan Poser, Provost; and Robert Barish, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, shared updates and gathered input from SEC members regarding UIC’s plans in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- SEC reviewed the “UIC United Faculty’s Official Statement on UI Policies Issued March 11, 2020.”
- SEC endorsed the Change in Credit / No-credit Policy for Spring, 2020.
- SEC endorsed the Senate Resolution on Emergency Policy and Procedure Decisions (**SR-20.02**).
- SEC approved the early College of Medicine Graduation.
- SEC reviewed the Teaching Evaluation of Faculty at UIC–SPECIAL AMENDMENT FOR COVID-19 policy.
- SEC endorsed the Spring 2020 Graduate Student Grading Policy.
- SEC discussed with Provost Poser concerns related to faculty course content being made available online due to difficulties associated with students attending synchronous classes and associated issues related to intellectual property and academic freedom.
- SEC examined the Student Proposed Policies Regarding COVID-19.
- SEC examined the Partial Tuition Refund Joint Statement.
- SEC reviewed and then referred the Policy on Integrity in Research and Publication (**USC OT-366**) to the Senate Research Committee for further review in the fall 2020 semester.
- SEC provided feedback to the University Senates Conference on the University of Illinois System Policies on Intimate Personal Relationships and Sexual Misconduct in Prior Employment (**USC OT-365**).
- SEC discussed ideas of UIC news features during the pandemic.
- SEC provided advice to Timothy Killeen, President, regarding Chancellor Amiridis’ Five Year Review evaluation.
- SEC reviewed the University Senates Conference Statement on Intellectual Property in Relation to Course Materials (**USC OT-367**).
- SEC discussed the impact of police brutality, racism, and structural violence on the UIC community.

Activities of the Senate Standing Committees

Senate Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee SEC referred the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, ARTICLE X (Academic Freedom and Tenure), Section 1 (a), 6 and 7 to permit the use of five year appointments for non-tenure track faculty (**ST-20.01**). SEC referred the issue of whether or not non-tenure track faculty should be eligible for sabbaticals. The Committee reviewed the UIC Faculty Grievance Procedures and examined the academic freedom protections in the *Statutes*.

Senate Academic Services Committee participated on the Teaching Evaluations Joint Committee that considered revised methods for obtaining student evaluation of faculty teaching, which is a component of the UIC Senate's Resolution on Student Evaluations of Teaching. The item was referred by the Senate Executive Committee.

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, to discuss UIC's finances; UIC's RCM Budget Model; State appropriations and the budget cycle; Budget Guidelines and how money was distributed to units in the FY20 budget; and Financial Aid.

Senate Committee on Educational Policy reviewed 60 New and Revised programs, 7 Certificate programs, and 22 General Education Courses. The Committee reviewed two Educational Policies: **EP-20.01**, Proposal to Revise the Enrollment Residence Requirement for Undergraduate Degrees and **EP-20.02**, Proposal to Revise the University Policy on Class Attendance.

Senate External Relations and Public Service Committee reviewed nominations for honorary degree. The Committee met with Kelly Shannon, Associate Vice Chancellor of Strategic Communications and Marketing in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public and Government Affairs, who presented an overview of recent initiatives in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public and Government Affairs. Professor Simpson met with the Committee and discussed past initiatives of the Committee including efforts to improve civic engagement on the UIC campus, the drafting of an investigatory report on public service on campus, and the creation of awards for outstanding public service to faculty members. The Committee Ex Officio, Theresa Mintle, Interim Vice Chancellor for Public and Government Affairs, provided regular updates to the Committee about activities in her office. Marty Gutierrez, Senior Director of Public and Civic Engagement, and Joe Hoereth, Director of the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement, met with the Committee and discussed current UIC initiatives related to civic engagement.

Senate Faculty Affairs Committee SEC referred the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, ARTICLE X (Academic Freedom and Tenure), Section 1 (a), 6 and 7 to permit the use of five year appointments for non-tenure track faculty (**ST-20.01**). SEC referred the issue of whether or not non-tenure track faculty should be eligible for sabbaticals. SEC referred the confidential Sexual Misconduct Task Force Recommendations Draft to the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee for further review.

Senate Research Committee implemented a program review process of the following Centers and Institutes: Institute for the Humanities; Institute for Environmental Sciences and Policy; Great Cities Institute; Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement; Urban Transportation Center; and the Learning Sciences Research Institute. The Committee approved **CI-20.01**, Proposal to Rename the UIC Center for Botanical Dietary Supplements Research as the Pharmacognosy Institute. The Committee met with Joanna Groden, Vice Chancellor for Research and Ex Officio member, who provided the Committee with an overview of the recent changes made to the guidance for disclosures on the Report of Non-University Activities (RNUA). Vice Chancellor Groden, also, provided the Committee an update on research during the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Senate Student Affairs Committee participated on the Teaching Evaluations Joint Committee that considered revised methods for obtaining student evaluation of faculty teaching, which is a component of the UIC Senate's Resolution on Student Evaluations of Teaching. The item was referred to the Committee by the Senate Executive Committee. The Committee, also, served on the UIC Senate Safety Task Force.

Senate Student Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention Committee reviewed the Proposal to Revise the University Policy on Class Attendance.

Senate Support Services Committee discussed concerns about the civil service hiring process, criminal background checks, proposed revisions to the UIC Senate Bylaws, and the Campus Master Plan. The Committee, also, served on the UIC Senate Safety Task Force.

This concludes the report of the UIC Senate for 2019-2020.

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine Vincent, RN, PhD
Chair UIC Senate Executive Committee.