

University Senates Conference
2013-2014 Annual Report to the Board of Trustees
July 24, 2014

The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs provides secretarial and budgetary support for the twenty-member University Senates Conference (USC), which 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, assists in coordinating the actions of the three senates. Another important function is to serve in an advisory capacity to the President. From August 2013 through June 2014, the Conference held ten regular meetings, an organizational meeting, and a retreat.

The members of the University Senates Conference Executive Committee for 2013-2014 were: Jorge Villegas, Chair; Donald Chambers, Vice Chair; Roy Campbell; Lynn Fisher; Kouros Mohammadian; and Joyce Tolliver.

University of Illinois policies, procedures, and other issues of concern were discussed with President Robert Easter and Vice President Christophe Pierre during the monthly meetings. Topics discussed during these sessions included the University's budget, changes to state pensions, a supplemental retirement plan sponsored by the University, the University Administration Review, the Academic Program Review, regulatory burdens, Open Access to Research Articles (SB1900), the University Hospital and Health Sciences enterprise, State University Civil Service exemption authority by the Merit Board, the President's Leadership Program, the role of faculty in philanthropy, the presidential search, the future of the University, and shared governance issues. These interactions provided an opportunity to learn from each other and share opinions, with the purpose of being better equipped to serve the University.

Guests at the meetings included: Visiting Associate Vice President Richard Wheeler (September), Executive Director of Governmental Relations Kappy Laing (September, February), Chancellor Susan Koch (September), Vice President Lawrence Schook (October, April), Dean Dimitri Azar (October), Associate Vice President Bryan Becker (October), Special Assistant to the President Avijit Ghosh (October, November, January, February, April), Chancellor Phyllis Wise (March, June), Chairman Christopher Kennedy (March, May), Vice President Larry Schook (October, April), and UI Foundation President Thomas Farrell (June).

Following are items that were active on the Conference's agenda in 2013-2014.

ST-72. Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 2 (Academic Freedom). Passed UIUC Senate 12/6/10. Passed UIC Senate 9/22/11. Passed UIS Senate 12/14/12. Transmitted to the President 1/18/13. Revised language approved by USC 3/18/14. Transmitted to Senates 3/21/14.

The USC Statutes and Governance Committee worked for about a year with staff from the President's Office to resolve some concerns that were raised with the proposed language. A revised proposal has been sent to the senates for consideration.

ST-77/GR-46. Revisions to the *Statutes* and *General Rules* – Edits and Updates.

A group led by Susan Kies is undertaking an overarching review of the two documents. Faculty representation on the group includes USC members Benet Deberry-Spence, Lynn Fisher, Prasanta Kalita, and Joyce Tolliver.

ST-79. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II, Section 2.b and Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the *Statutes*. Approved by USC 1/17/13. Transmitted to Senates 4/5/13. Revised language transmitted to Senates 6/21/13. Passed UIC Senate 9/26/13. Revised language passed UIUC Senate 11/18/13. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates 11/26/13. Passed UIS Senate 2/21/14. Passed UIC Senate 4/24/14. Transmitted to the President 6/11/14.

After several revisions were made to the language approved by USC in January 2013, all three senates have approved identical language. The proposed statutory changes have been transmitted to the President.

OT-223. Annual Review of the Vice Presidents.

The USC Finance, Budget and Benefits Committee conducted a review of Vice President Knorr, which resulted in a very positive report that was endorsed by USC and submitted to the President.

OT-288. Faculty/Staff Pension and Benefit Issues.

USC approved a statement on pensions on November 21, 2013 and a resolution on the retirement annuity calculation (money purchase formula) on April 22, 2014.

OT-298. Shared Governance in a Changing Environment.

USC is looking at various factors that could affect shared governance practices at the University. One factor being the co-existence of shared governance and collective bargaining.

OT-300. *USC Guidelines on Transparency, Confidentiality, and the Conduct of Business*.

This USC governing document was approved on August 22, 2014 and replaces the documents, *USC Guidelines for Conduct of Business* and *USC Confidentiality Guidelines*.

OT-301. Records and Information Management Services (RIMS).

USC reviewed a proposed RIMS policy that focuses on the retention of emails. Meetings are being held on each campus, by University Archives, to obtain advice.

OT-304. Open Access to Research Articles.

In response to SB1900, the Board of Trustees created an Open Access Task Force, which includes USC members Danilo Erricolo, Joyce Tolliver, and Jorge Villegas. In addition, USC created an *ad hoc* committee, which includes Sandy De Groote, Luisa DiPietro, Danilo Erricolo, Lynn Fisher, Eric Johnson, Stephen McMinn, Sarah Shreeves, Joyce Tolliver, and Jorge Villegas, to prepare a draft Open Access Policy to be considered by the Task Force.

OT-307. President's Executive Leadership Program.

USC members Benet Deberry-Spence and Jorge Villegas are participating in the program.

OT-308. UA Annual Budget Review Process.

A significant recommendation that came out of the UA Review was the establishment of an annual review process for University Administration. Vice President Pierre is leading this process, which includes USC members Kouros Mohammadian, Jorge Villegas, and Matthew Wheeler.

OT-309. Presidential Search.

USC members Nicholas Burbules, Roy Campbell, and Jorge Villegas are part of the search committee.

OT-310. Recommendation for New Policy Language Related to Classified Research at the University of Illinois. Transmitted to Senates 6/25/14.

In October 2013, Vice President Schook recommended to USC that there be a University-wide policy on classified research in order to comply with federal regulations when competing for certain grants. The USC Academic Affairs and Research Committee worked on the wording of the policy along with members of the VPR Office, specifically the Security Management Office. The full Conference approved the wording of the proposed policy on May 22, 2014. The policy was transmitted to the Senates for consideration on June 25.

OT-311. University Senates Conference *Statement on Excellence at the University of Illinois*. Approved by USC 5/22/14. Transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Trustees, the President, and the Senates 6/11/14.

USC approved the statement, which addresses the issue of maintaining a balance among the University and the three campuses, at its May meeting.

OT-313. Search for Executive Director of Governmental Relations.

USC members Joyce Tolliver and Jorge Villegas are serving on the search committee.

USC has five standing committees: Executive; Academic Affairs and Research; Finance, Budget and Benefits; Hospital and Health Affairs; and Statutes and Governance. The four latter committees are parallel to the committees of the Board of Trustees. Some members of the USC

committees attended the corresponding Board committee meetings. The Conference hopes to strengthen the relationship between the Board committees and USC committees. The overall impact of the USC committee structure, which was revamped in Fall 2012, has been extremely productive. Highlights from each committee follow:

Academic Affairs and Research (Matthew Wheeler, Chair): Worked on a classified research policy that was transmitted to the Senates for review.

Finance, Budget and Benefits (Peter Boltuc, Chair): Looked at ways to engage the faculty and senates in budget discussions. Met with leaders of senate budget committees of each campus. Led the review of Vice President Knorr.

Hospital and Health Affairs (Donald Chambers, Chair): Reviewed proposals for the restructuring of the health sciences enterprise. Actively advised the President on health affairs issues related to the restructure efforts and improvement of hospital operations.

Statutes and Governance (Joyce Tolliver, Chair): Provided advice to USC and the President on the proposed statutory changes on academic freedom (ST-72). Proposed an amendment to Statutes XIII.8 that would allow for the initiation of a proposed Statutes amendment by the University Senates Conference (ST-79). Worked on specific language and the structural process for the initiative to review the *Statutes* and *General Rules* (ST-77/GR-46). Due to the complex nature of the process of the revision of the *Statutes* and *General Rules*, a review of activities prepared by the Chair of this committee is submitted alongside the current report.

The Conference continued to send observers to each Board of Trustees meeting. In addition, a faculty report was given at most Board meetings.

The Conference had representation on the following external committees and groups: Common Application Consortium (Kim Graber); Enrollment Management Policy Council (Carol Leff); Pre-and Post-Award Research Money Policy group (Matthew Wheeler); President's Executive Leadership Program (Benet Deberry-Spence, Jorge Villegas); Strategic Communications and Marketing Council (Jorge Villegas); UI Labs Task Force (Donald Chambers); University Technology Management Team (Roy Campbell); Vice President for Academic Affairs Faculty Advisory Committee (Donald Chambers, Kouros Mohammadian, Joyce Tolliver, Jorge Villegas); Vice President for Academic Affairs UA Budget Review Committee (Kouros Mohammadian, Jorge Villegas, Matthew Wheeler); Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee (Peter Boltuc, Donald Chambers, Jorge Villegas, Matthew Wheeler).

On June 18, USC elected the following members to its 2014-2015 Executive Committee: Donald Chambers, Chair; Joyce Tolliver, Vice Chair; Roy Campbell; Xiaoqing Li; Kouros Mohammadian; and Jorge Villegas.

Respectfully submitted,

Jorge Villegas, Chair
University Senates Conference