

University Senates Conference
2012-2013 Annual Report to the Board of Trustees
July 25, 2013

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, coordinates the actions of the three senates. Another important function is to serve in an advisory capacity to the President. From August 2012 through June 2013, the Conference held ten regular meetings, an organizational meeting, and a retreat. In addition, the Conference was invited to attend the Board of Trustees retreat on January 23 in Chicago. The USC Chair and the Hospital and Health Affairs Committee of the Conference participated in the July 24 Board retreat.

The members of the University Senates Conference Executive Committee for 2012-2013 were: Nicholas Burbules, Chair; Peter Boltuc, Vice Chair; Donald Chambers; Lynn Fisher; Geula Gibori; and Matthew Wheeler.

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 budget issues, pensions, regulatory burdens, the University Administration review, the Academic Program Review, the Campus Strategic Planning initiative, the Hospital and Health Sciences enterprise, cross-campus collaborations, enrollment management, RIMS (Records and Information Management Services) and archiving, State University Civil Service exemption authority, and shared governance issues. These discussions were constructive and allowed not only an opportunity for advice and suggestions to the President and Vice President; the information gained also enabled the Conference to engage in its wider governance activities with a better understanding of the changing context and challenges confronting the University.

Guests at the meetings included: Chancellor Phyllis Wise (August, January), Chairman Christopher Kennedy (August, September, June) Former UIC Chancellor Donald Langenberg (September), Vice President Larry Schook (October), Bill Adams (October, March), Chancellor Susan Koch (November), Kappy Laing (November, March), Visiting Associate Vice President Richard Wheeler (January), Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares (February), Vice President Skip Garcia (February), Jennifer Woodard, IMD (February), Jason Kosovski (March, May), Vice President Walter Knorr (April).

The University Senates Conference restructured its committees in August 2012. The five standing committees are: 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 and, in some cases, the chair of the Board

committee was invited to meet with the USC committee. The Conference hopes to strengthen the relationship between the Board and USC committees. The overall impact of the new committee structure has been extremely productive, allowing the Conference not only to pursue parallel lines of inquiry simultaneously, but to allow the Conference to become better informed and more engaged with a range of issues confronting the University as a whole.

The following proposed changes to the University of Illinois *Statutes* and *General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedures* were approved in 2012-2013:

ST-78/GR-47. Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes* and *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedures* – to change throughout both documents “Vice President/Chancellor at the (Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, or Springfield) Campus” to “Chancellor at the (Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, or Springfield) Campus/Vice President”. Passed UIC Senate 11/29/12. Passed UIS Senate 11/30/12. Passed UIUC Senate 12/3/12. Approved by the Board of Trustees 1/24/13.

Following are items that were active on the Conference’s agenda in 2012-2013.

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.

The USC Statutes and Governance Committee is working with Peg O’Donoghue and Katherine Galvin to resolve some concerns that have been raised with the proposed language.

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

A group headed by Susan Kies is undertaking an overarching review of the two documents. Faculty representation on the group includes USC members Professor Nicholas Burbules, Professor Lynn Fisher, and Professor Prasanta Kalita.

ST-79. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, 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.

The senates have been asked to review the proposed changes and report back to USC.

OT-295: Resolution concerning the University *Statutes* and *General Rules* as basic governing documents.

The resolution was transmitted to the Board of Trustees, the President, the Chancellors and the Senates on 2/22/13.

OT-297. Implications of the Open Meetings Act to the operations of the University Senates Conference.

The USC Statutes and Governance Committee is looking at the bylaws and operating procedures of the Conference in relation to its responsibilities to the Open Meetings Act.

OT-298. Shared Governance in a Changing Environment.

The Conference 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-299: Burbules/McCarthy letter.

A letter authored by Professors Nicholas Burbules and Randy McCarthy that was presented to the Urbana-Champaign Senate at its meeting of April 29, 2013, was approved by the Conference for transmittal to the President, the Chancellors, and the Senates for information.

OT-300. USC Guidelines on Conduct of Business.

A new governance document from the USC Statutes and Governance Committee, which combines the USC Guidelines for Conduct of Business and the USC Confidentiality Guidelines, is being considered by the Conference.

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

The Conference had representation on the following committees: Common Application Consortium (Kim Graber); Enrollment Management Policy Council (Carol Leff); Pre-and Post-Award Research Money Policy group (Matthew Wheeler); 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 (Nicholas Burbules, Donald Chambers, Kouros Mohammadian, Jorge Villegas); Vice President for Research Faculty Advisory Committee (Peter Boltuc, Donald Chambers, Matthew Wheeler).

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas C. Burbules, Chair
University Senates Conference