

Senate Executive Committee Report
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Academic Year 2017-2018
submitted by BM Francis, Chair, Senate Executive Committee
10 September 2018

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meets monthly during the academic year, and as needed in the summer months. Much of its work consists of acting as a conduit between the work of Senate committees and the body of the Senate. SEC sets the Senate agenda; receives reports from committees; and sends to the Senate those items passed by committees (including both resolutions and proposals). It is the Senate which votes on these proposals. The chancellor and/or the provost generally attend SEC meetings; if neither is available, a vice chancellor is delegated to attend.

In addition to its regular meetings on the Monday before each Senate meeting, SEC meets twice a year with the UI System president: once in January for a general discussion of the state of the System, and once in June to evaluate the Chancellor (as stated in the Senate *Bylaws*, Part D.1.a, under “Duties of the Senate Executive Committee). SEC also meets once each year with the Chancellor for the specific purpose of evaluating vice chancellors (Senate *Bylaws*, Part D.1); prior to this meeting, each vice chancellor sends a report to the SEC. The custom has been to evaluate one vice chancellor in depth each year, so that over a period of years, all of the vice chancellors are reviewed. In academic year 2017-18, the in-depth review was omitted, because all UIUC vice chancellors, including the provost, have held office for less than 2 years.

In the summary that follows, I will not comment on the recurring business of the SEC in forwarding proposals from the Senate Committee on Educational Policy to the Senate, nor on the Chancellor’s remarks to SEC and the comments that follow them. These items can be found in the minutes of each meeting. I will restrict myself to listing issues specific to specific meetings.

A major focus of SEC this year has been the “internal process audit” carried out by University auditors Darla Hill and Kevin Jones. The auditors met with SEC members, attended committee meetings, and perused the Senate’s governing documents to ascertain whether the Senate’s procedures corresponded to the governing documents. Preliminary meetings with as many SEC members as possible were held in June and July; a final discussion of actions to be taken on their report was considered by the SEC at its first meeting of the 2018-2019 academic year, on 27 August.

August/September: At the start of the 2017-18 academic year, issues of concern to the campus included the start of a major fund-raising campaign, titled “With Illinois”; the approval by the accrediting organization for the Carle Illinois to accept its first class in fall of 2018; the kidnapping and presumed murder of Dr. Yingying Zhang; President Trump’s travel ban on people from specified countries; and the consequences of the current administration’s policies on UIUC’s undocumented students. A series of revisions to the Statutes was submitted for its first reading; in addition, Shawn Gilmore, chair of the Committee on University Statutes and

Senate Procedures (USSP), pointed out that a proposed revision to the statutes, ST72, had been sent to the President by USC several years ago, and has still not been acted on.

October: the chair of the Committee on General University Policy (GUP), Nick Burbules, reported that his committee was working on a Faculty Guide, which would be posted on the Senate website when completed.

Wynne Korr, outgoing dean of the UIUC School of Social Work, gave a presentation on public engagement at UIUC. Two resolutions were proposed for transmittal to the Senate: Illinois Student Government (ISG) proposed that the University recognize indigenous people on what is officially Columbus Day; Bruce Rosenstock submitted, but then withdrew, a motion calling for balance between free speech and a welcoming climate and safe environment on campus.

November: The Gies donation to the College of Business was discussed in the context of procedures for naming programs. Other issues of concern were the possibility of a strike by the Graduate Employees' Organization (GEO) and the initiation of the next Strategic Plan. ST-14.06, a proposal to allow the President to initiate changes to the Statutes, was approved for transmittal to the Senate for its first reading.

December: Discussion centered on the possible consequences of the proposed federal tax bill on graduate student stipends; an objectionable ad taken out by the Suburban Express bus company; the continuing uncertainty of options for undocumented students, and the provost's committee on free speech. Kevin Pitts (Physics) gave a presentation about online education at UIUC.

February: There was considerable discussion of the administration's decision to place Jay Rosenstein (Professor, Media and Cinema Studies) on administrative leave after his arrest for taking photographs of an individual wearing a Chief Illiniwek costume in a men's room at the State Farm Center, as well as about the continuing controversy over Chief Illiniwek.

March: Because of the ongoing GEO strike, SEC met in the Natural History Building rather than in the Senate Conference Room in the English Building; the strike was the major topic of discussion. Chair Francis and Vice Chair O'Brien noted that they had met with those committee chairs who are not SEC members, and would also meet with committee chairs who are on SEC, to develop a better understanding of the role of the various committees.

April: In response to ongoing discussions of whether visitors at SEC should have speaking privileges, it was agreed that USSP and GUP would work to draft a document outlining procedures for visitors' speaking privileges, modeled on the rules used at Senate meetings. Progress on the proposed revisions to the General Rules were discussed, noting that although most of the changes revolve around changing "campus" to "university" (related to the shift from one university with 3 campuses to a system comprising 3 universities), there were some presumably unintended consequences: instances where such a shift effectively moved duties from the University to the System level, contrary to recent trends in the UI System. Such complications will probably delay completion of the statute revisions. Martin Wong, Executive

Associate Dean of Engineering, gave a presentation on the partnership between Illinois and Zhejiang University (ZJU).

May: This meeting comprised the SEC's meeting with Chancellor Jones to review the vice chancellors. Because personnel matters were discussed, the meeting was held in executive session.

June/July: SEC met with President Killeen to discuss the Chancellor. In addition, there were 2 meetings of SEC members with the auditors in June, and one in July.