

Minutes
Urbana-Champaign Senate Meeting
October 21, 2013

A regular meeting of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate was called to order at 3:11 pm at the Illini Union in Illini Room C with Vice Provost Barbara Wilson presiding and Professor Emeritus H. George Friedman, Jr. as Parliamentarian.

Approval of Minutes

10/21/13-01 The minutes from September 16, 2013 were approved as amended.

Senate Executive Committee Report

Roy Campbell (ENGR), faculty senator and Chair of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), requested floor privileges on behalf of Professor Janak Patel from Electrical and Computer Engineering to speak to HD.14.02.

10/21/13-02 Floor privileges were granted as requested without objection.

Campbell announced that the Annual Meeting of the Faculty will be held on Monday, October 28, 2013 at 3:10pm at the Illini Union. President Robert Easter is no longer available to attend the meeting. Vice President Christophe Pierre will attend the Annual Meeting of the Faculty and answer questions and hold discussion on behalf of President Easter.

Campbell reported that Abbas Aminmansour had volunteered to chair the Seventh Senate Review Commission and the slate of nominees to populate the Commission was approved at the previous Senate meeting.

Faculty senators Harry Hilton (ENGR) and Joyce Tolliver (LAS) and student senator Shao Guo served as tellers for the meeting.

Chancellor's Remarks

Vice Provost Wilson noted that the campus strategic plan had been distributed and there are numerous print copies available by request. On behalf of the Chancellor, Wilson announced that there were 180 faculty searches approved. Units are encouraged to use the campus strategic plan document for recruitment. There are four major searches that will begin soon: 1) The Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS), 2) the Dean of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES), 3) the Senior International Officer (SIO) which will hold the title of Associate Provost for International Affairs and Global Strategies, and 4) the Chief Information Officer (CIO).

The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Innovation Charles Tucker will be holding several sessions to discuss enhancing the undergraduate experience at Illinois, and is called Visioning Undergraduate Education. The sessions will run throughout the fall semester and will have significant Senate representation.

The Office of the Provost will begin an academic review program. The review will be on an eight year cycle and will include internal and external reviewers. Many units will find this very helpful as they decide how to move forward and how they can be strategic moving forward. The first three units that will begin the review program include the Department of Sociology, the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics (ACE) and the Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering.

Wilson expressed great sympathy on behalf of the Office of the Chancellor and the Office of the Provost for the recent tragedies on campus. Both offices have brought forward support systems. The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Renee Romano, has wonderful staff members that have been reaching out during this difficult time.

Questions/Discussion

No questions.

Consent Agenda

Hearing no objections, the following proposals were approved by unanimous consent.

- 10/21/13-03 EP.14.07* Proposal from the College of Business to Permanently Establish the Center for Business and Public Policy
- 10/21/13-04 EP.14.10* Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) and the Graduate College to Eliminate the Physiological and Molecular Plant Biology Concentration from the MS and PhD in Biology
- 10/21/13-05 EP.14.12* Proposal from Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research to rename the Center for a Sustainable Environment as the Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Environment

Proposals (enclosed)

- 10/21/13-06 CC.14.05* Nominations for Membership on Standing Committees of the Senate
- On behalf of the Senate Committee on Committees, Chair Prasanta Kalita moved approval of the nominees presented on CC.14.05. There were no floor nominations and nominations were declared closed.
- 10/21/13-07 By voice, the slate of candidates listed on CC.14.05 was approved.
- 10/21/13-08 SP.14.04* Proposed Revisions to the *Bylaws*, Part D.9 – Committee on Equal Opportunity and Inclusion
- On behalf of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP), committee Chair William Maher introduced proposal SP.14.04. This proposal represents an amendment to existing *Bylaws* from the Senate Committee on Equal Opportunity and Inclusion. The Equal Opportunity and Inclusion Committee brought forward the requested *Bylaws* change in a resolution that was approved by the full Senate at the November 5, 2012 Senate meeting.
- 10/21/13-09 Chair Maher moved approval of SC.14.04. No discussion followed.
- 10/21/13-10 By voice vote, proposal SP.14.04 was approved.
- 10/21/13-11 SP.14.06* Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the *Statutes* (First Reading)
- On behalf of USSP, committee Chair Maher introduced SP.14.06. This is a first reading of proposed revisions to the *University Statutes* by the University Senates Conference (USC). The USC presented the document that is included in this proposal as Appendix A to the three Senates. Over last several years, USC has brought forward amendments to the *Statutes* for consideration by the Senates, but the Statues does not currently contain language outlining a process for USC to bring forward amendments.
- The Urbana campus USSP reviewed the original proposal from USC, and decided to create its own version of the recommendation based on the current language that allows Senates to bring

forward amendments to the *Statutes*. Maher reminded senators that this is the first reading for discussion only and that the second reading and vote would be at the November 18 Senate meeting.

In response to a question about the language, Chair Maher reiterated that the language in Appendix A was the original text suggested by the USC. The Senate will vote at the next Senate meeting on the language created by the Urbana USSP Committee in proposal SP.14.06, not the original proposal by USC. Chair Maher added that under the current system, if one Senate proposes a change to the *Statutes*, but the other two are not in agreement, USC attempts to find consensus among the Senates. Chair Maher indicated that it is important to note that the Senates can amend any document that is presented for the Senate's consideration.

Faculty senator and USC member Mallory (LIBR) noted that the unwritten process of USC suggesting *Statutes* changes has worked successfully approximately five times in the past. USC's role is as a mediator. Mallory expressed her concern that if the process for USC suggesting changes to the *Statutes* is put in writing, that this duty will become just as important of a duty as mediation. Many of the USC members are well versed in Senate procedures and Mallory does not feel that putting this process in writing for USC to make changes to the *Statutes* is necessary.

Mallory also noted that USC is composed only of faculty. The Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus is composed of faculty, students, and academic professionals. There are not students or academic professionals serving on USC. Mallory encouraged senators to run for election on the USC in the spring elections.

Faculty senator Tolliver (LAS) read the USC charge from the *Statutes*. Tolliver pointed out that there is a very significant role of USC in coordinating the senates in recommending policy changes. Tolliver wanted to make it clear that USC's intention was not to achieve more power, but to regularize the process.

10/21/13-12 HD.14.02* Nominations for Honorary Degrees

Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees Chair Jeremy Tyson noted that information on both candidates, Andrews and Murthy, was included in today's Senate meeting packet. Tyson continued by briefly summarizing Andrews's accomplishments.

10/21/13-13 On behalf of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees, Chair Tyson moved approval of George E. Andrews for an honorary degree to be conferred at the May 2014 Commencement exercises. No discussion followed.

10/21/13-14 By voice vote, the nomination of George E. Andrews for an honorary degree was approved.
Chair Tyson then gave a brief summary of Murthy's accomplishments.

10/21/13-15 On behalf of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees, Chair Tyson moved approval of Narayana N. R. Murthy for an honorary degree to be conferred at the May 2014 Commencement exercises. No discussion followed.

10/21/13-16 By voice vote, the nomination of Narayana N. R. Murthy for an honorary degree was approved.

Current Benefits Issues

John Kindt, Chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits reminded those present that if an individual employee contacts a representative regarding an issue, University resources cannot be used in support of any political activities and any political activities must not interfere with employment obligations to the University.

Kindt turned the floor over to H. F. (Bill) Williamson as a representative to the State University Retirement System Members Advisory Committee (SURSMAC) and also as a retired faculty receiving an annuity. Williamson reported that retirees will soon be forced to make a decision about health insurance. Health Alliance was not among the four companies awarded the retiree contracts. Retirees should receive a letter soon and will have to make a quick decision by December 13, 2013.

Reports

10/21/13-17

HE.14.01* FAC/IBHE Report – September 20, 2013

Aminmansour noted that FAC/IBHE was formed 50 years ago and the Council plans to hold a celebration.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 pm.

Jenny Roether, Senate Clerk

*Filed with the Senate Clerk and incorporated by reference in these minutes.