

APPROVED BY SENATE
11/16/2015

Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus
October 19, 2015
Minutes

A regular meeting of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate was called to order at 3:12 pm in the Illini Room A at the Illini Union with Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Edward Feser presiding and with Professor Emeritus H. George Friedman, Jr. as Parliamentarian.

Approval of Minutes

10/19/15-01 The minutes from September 21, 2015 were approved as amended.

Senate Executive Committee Report

Gay Miller (VMED), faculty senator and Chair of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) reported that the state budget battles continue. Student financial aid has not been paid, and depending which institution the student is attending, the student may have to pay now and be reimbursed once the state approves a budget. Students at Urbana-Champaign are not being asked to pay now. The campus is currently covering the costs. There are a huge number of pensions that will not be paid. SEC asked the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP) and the Senate Committee on Equal Opportunity and Inclusion (EQ) to review the background check policy. The report from GUP and EQ is included in today's meeting packet. Vice President Pierre has convened an ad hoc committee to review the Background Check Policy. Chair Miller will serve on the ad hoc committee as a member of the University Senates Conference (USC).

10/19/15-02 Tellers for the meeting were faculty senators H. F. (Bill) Williamson (LAS) and Kathryn Oberdeck (LAS).

Chancellor's Remarks

Interim Provost Feser introduced himself. Feser is working closely with Interim Chancellor Wilson and both look forward to having permanent leadership in place soon. Feser and Wilson are both strong proponents of shared governance. There is no current budget allocation from the state and there is no indication that there will be one soon. No matter what the allocation is, there will be a significant reduction in state support. With the budget uncertainty and challenges, the university needs to look at areas to economize.

Questions/Discussion

When asked what steps are being taken to lift the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) censure, Feser responded that he is not directly involved with lifting the AAUP censure. Feser assured senators that Chancellor Wilson is taking the lead on the issue and the first step is to settle the case in litigation.

Feser noted that any new faculty member hired is subject to the Background Check Policy. The Board of Trustees established the Background Check Policy and the campuses were charged with creating an implementation process. The requested implementation delay was granted until November 1. The general faculty hiring cycle means that most faculty hires will occur during the spring semester. The implementation procedures and the review committee are being worked on. Vice President Christophe Pierre has also put together an ad hoc committee to propose revisions to the University level Background Check Policy. Pierre's committee plans to present any proposed revisions at the Board meeting in January 2016. SEC Chair Miller and several other including Vice Provost Benmamoun; Deborah Stone, Director of Academic Human Resources; Jamelle Sharpe, a member of the Senate EQ Committee, and a representative from University Counsel.

Feser addressed a question regarding the status of the ad hoc Campus Budget Advisory Task Force (CBATF). Matt Ando, Professor in Mathematics, is serving as the Chair of the CBATF. The task force is focusing on how general revenue funds are managed and how they should be

managed moving forward with the lack of state funding. The allocation of funds across campus is also under review. Rosenstein (MDA) noted that the College of Media is the only college not on the task force.

There is new legislation that requires IBHE (Illinois Board of Higher Education) to report underperforming programs. Concern was expressed about the reporting of this information and what an underperforming program means? Feser noted that low enrollment was reported. Continuing to articulate the interest of the University is important. Feser indicated willingness to share the report on low enrollment.

Levine (LAS) suggested the Provost, Chancellor, and President urge that the Board to reconsider the hiring decision in the Salaita case. Levine felt reconsideration would be a simple solution to show the Senate is not being ignored.

Consent Agenda

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

- 10/19/15-03 EP.16.02* Proposal to Revise the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Curriculum in the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism (RST), College of Applied Health Sciences (AHS)
- 10/19/15-04 EP.16.04* Proposal to Revise the Undergraduate Minor in Food and Environmental systems in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
- 10/19/15-05 EP.16.09* Proposal to Request to move Gender Relations in International Development (GRID) Graduate Minor from College of ACES to School of Social Work
- 10/19/15-06 EP.16.11* Proposal to Revise the Undergraduate Curriculum in the Finance Department, College of Business
- 10/19/15-07 EP.16.15* Graduate Concentrations in the Department of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership
- 10/19/15-08 EP.16.19* Proposal to Eliminate the Joint J.D./Ph.D. Degree Program in Law and Philosophy
- 10/19/15-09 EP.16.20* Proposal to Establish (4) Four Graduate Concentrations for the Master of Laws (LL.M.) Degree at the College of Law
- 10/19/15-10 EP.16.21* Proposal to Establish a Graduate Concentration in "U.S. Legal Practice Skills" for the Master of Laws (LL.M.) Degree at the College of Law

Proposals

- 10/19/15-11 CC.16.06* Nominations for Membership on Standing and ad hoc Committees of the Senate
On behalf of the Senate Committee on Committees, Chair Prasanta Kalita moved adoption of the slate of names on proposal CC.16.06.
- 10/19/15-12 There were no floor nominations and nominations were declared closed. The motion to adopt CC.16.06 was approved by unanimous consent.
- 10/19/15-13 SP.16.03* Revisions to the *Election Rules for the Student Electorate*
On behalf of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures, Chair William Maher introduced and moved adoption of proposal SP.16.03. No discussion.
- 10/19/15-14 The motion to adopt SP.16.03 was approved by voice.
- 10/19/15-15 SC.15.12* Open Access to Research Articles
On behalf of the SEC, Chair Miller gave background information on the proposal and moved adoption of proposal SC.15.12. USC endorsed the proposal in fall 2014. The Senate has now been asked review the policy. The GUP committee and the Senate Committee on the Library have both reviewed and approved the proposed policy on Open Access to Research Articles.

10/19/15-16 The motion to adopt SC.15.12 was approved by voice.

10/19/15-17 SC.16.17* Statement in Support of the Faculty Senate of the University of Iowa

On behalf of the SEC, Chair Miller gave background information and moved adoption of proposal SC.16.17. Miller invited B. Francis (LAS), as an attendee at the CIC Faculty Governance Leadership Conference, to provide additional background information. No faculty support of the hiring of president at the University of Iowa. The University of Iowa Faculty Senate voted no confidence in their Board of Regents.

10/19/15-18 The motion to adopt SC.16.17 was approved by voice.

Current Benefits Issues

John Kindt, Chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits stressed the importance that all employees be diligent in submitting documents for the dependent verification process. There are approximately 8,000 employees that have not completed the verification process. If dependents are not verified, they will lose coverage.

There is a statement on the CMS (Illinois Department of Central Management Services) website stating that until there is a balanced budget passed by the General Assembly, CMS cannot release funds for the payment of claims.

On October 20, 2015 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm at the Illini Union an All Employee Expo will be held and benefits representatives will be there to answer questions.

Reports

10/19/15-19 EP.16.22* EPC Administrative Approvals through September 28, 2015

10/19/15-20 SUR.15.02* SURSMAC Meeting Report – June 18, 2015

10/19/15-21 HE.16.01* FAC/IBHE Report – September 18, 2015

10/19/15-22 SC.16.12* Coal Divestiture Report

10/19/15-23 SC.15.13* Background Check Policy Response

Tolliver on behalf of GUP Chair Burbules reported that verbal advice was given to the Provost on campus implementation of the Background Check Policy. The GUP committee agreed with the EQ committee that the candidate's name should be redacted on the report the committee reviews during the evaluation. The Urbana campus policy is far more progressive and fair than other campuses'. The GUP committee recommendation last spring to include faculty on the review committee was accepted by the Urbana campus.

Oberdeck, Chair of the EQ committee, highlighted main points of the report. Implementation seemed inevitable so the committee wanted to reduce or limit harm during the process. Items for the implementation process to address include who will see each piece of information on the background check report and what will be done with the information. Ensuring a broad representation of faculty on the review committee is also important.

Concern was expressed with the vendor, GIS, that was chosen to provide the background check reports. A specific class action suit was mentioned that involved a felony appearing on the candidate's report when in fact the candidate had only paid the felon's bond.

Director Stone looked specifically at the class action suit where the candidate posted bond and did not commit a felony. GIS has 3 days to return the report. The candidate has 10 days to review the report and provide feedback. In the class action suit, it appeared that the wrong letter was sent to the candidate by GIS. The campus will be sending letters to candidates, not by GIS.

Feser noted that the implementation plan is scheduled to be in place by November 1, 2015. And the implementation procedures document is a living document and not static. Vice President Pierre's ad hoc committee will be reviewing the University level policy document which may affect the implementation procedures document.

Some senators continued to express concern that the criminal background checks will discriminate and deter some groups of people from applying to positions on this campus.

Any international candidate would only be subject to a domestic criminal background check. International candidates are subject to review by the State Department and will not be put through an additional international review; only a domestic review.

The Office of the Provost has adopted the proposed language on page 27 and is working with campus units to implement the language.

10/19/15-24 EP.16.24* Report of Administrative Approvals through October 12, 2015

New Business

Faculty senator Hilton (ENGR) distributed a resolution from the AAUP.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 pm.

Jenny Roether, Senate Clerk

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