

**Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus**

December 7, 2015

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate was called to order at 3:11 pm in the Illini Room A at the Illini Union with Interim Chancellor Barbara Wilson presiding and with Lecturer Sara Benson serving as Parliamentarian.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

12/07/15-01 The minutes from November 16, 2015 were approved as distributed.

**SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Gay Miller (VMED), faculty senator and Chair of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) reported that Antoinette Burton, Professor in History will serve as the chair of the search committee to assist the President in selecting a chancellor.

Budget concerns continue. The Campus and University as a whole is managing, but cannot sustain the current budget situation with \$75 million spent per month.

Campus leaders have made clear their commitment to a campus culture for all, and fair and inclusive opportunity and access to education. Discussions must continue and be permeated throughout the campus.

The ad hoc Background Check Policy committee, on which Chair Miller serves and which Vice President Pierre chairs, continues to meet. The intention is to present revisions to the Policy at the January Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting.

12/07/15-02 Floor privileges were requested and granted to Professor Arne Pearlstein, Mechanical Science and Engineering, and Professor Madhubalan Viswanathan, Business Administration, to speak to item HD.16.01.

12/07/15-03 Tellers for the meeting were faculty senators H.F. (Bill) Williamson (LAS) and John Kindt (BUS), along with student senator Logan Walker (FAA).

**CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS**

Interim Chancellor Barbara Wilson encouraged everyone to contact legislators about the importance of funding higher education.

There are many educational efforts on race and discrimination across the campus. Not all of these efforts are widely publicized. Communications of the initiatives offered continues to be a challenge on a campus of this size. The added \$1 million in scholarships from the Chancellor has increased yield. A mandatory implicit bias training is in place for all employee search committee members. Many people on our campus have been effected by racism on this campus. We cannot walk away or ignore what is happening to our campus community.

Wilson also noted that the Athletic Director search committee has been formed and will be chaired by Matthew Wheeler.

MAP (Monetary Award Program) funding totals \$13 million each semester. Approximately 45% of African American students rely on MAP funding. Wilson encouraged students to register for classes and the University is currently covering the cost of the MAP funding until the state can begin funding the program.

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION**

In response to questions regarding the Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, Wilson responded that the location for the new Center has not been determined and recognized that the current location is not ideal. Wilson offered to meet with the Illinois Student Senate and also graduate student groups to discuss plans for the Center. The old Center is not structurally sound and will be demolished.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 12/07/15-04 EP.16.25\* Proposal to Revise the Curriculum for Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design (BFA in GD), School of Art and Design, College of Fine and Applied Arts
- 12/07/15-05 EP.16.28\* Proposal to Revise the Program of Study for the Bachelor of Music Education
- 12/07/15-06 EP.16.32\* Proposal to Change Course Requirements in the Undergraduate Engineering Mechanics Curriculum in the Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering
- 12/07/15-07 EP.16.33\* Proposal to Revise the Non-thesis Master of Science in Chemistry
- 12/07/15-08 EP.16.34\* Proposal to Change two Course Requirements for Master of Science in the Teaching Mathematics in the Department of Mathematics, College of LAS
- 12/07/15-09 EP.16.36\* Proposal to Revise LAS Specialized Curriculum in Physics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**PROPOSALS**

- 12/07/15-10 CC.16.07\* Nominations to the Research Policy Committee
- As Chair and on behalf of the Senate Committee on Committees, Kalita moved approval of the nominees on CC.16.07. There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were declared closed.
- 12/07/15-11 By voice, the slate of nominees on CC.16.07 were approved.
- 12/07/15-12 CC.16.08\* Nominations for Membership on Standing Committees of the Senate, and Governing and Advisory Bodies
- As Chair and on behalf of the Senate Committee on Committees, Kalita moved approval of the nominees on CC.16.08. There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were declared closed.
- 12/07/15-13 By voice, the slate of nominees on CC.16.08 were approved.
- 12/07/15-14 SP.16.06\* Transmission of Further Comments on the General Revisions to the *Statutes*
- In the absence of the Chair of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP), committee member Lear (GRAD) introduced proposal SP.16.06. Some advice was accepted and some was rejected. Lear moved approval and no discussion followed.
- 12/07/15-15 By voice, proposal SP.16.06 was approved.
- 12/07/15-16 HD.16.01\* Nominations for Honorary Degrees
- As Chair and on behalf of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees, Cartwright moved approval of awarding an honorary degree at the 2016 Commencement Ceremonies to the following nominees: Adrian, Lee, Sheth, and Taylor.
- 12/07/15-17 By voice, the motion to award Adrian an honorary degree was approved.
- 12/07/15-18 By voice, the motion to award Lee an honorary degree was approved.
- 12/07/15-19 By voice, the motion to award Sheth an honorary degree was approved.
- 12/07/15-20 By voice, the motion to award Taylor an honorary degree was approved.

**BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

Edward Feser, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, presented information on the campus implementation procedures for the University background check policy. The policy and implementation procedures are posted on the Academic Human Resources website. After the presentation, senators were able to ask questions.

Campus safety was cited as the driving force behind the Board putting the background check policy into place. In response to a concern about convictions being treated differently from state to state, Feser replied that all convictions are reported and misdemeanors and felonies are not separated. Feser reiterated that an individualized assessment would be completed when a conviction is identified on the candidate's record. The nature of the position in relation to the conviction would be included in the individualized assessment process. Race and ethnicity are not a factor in the background check policy. The check is only initiated once a contingent offer has been made to a candidate.

Feser noted that there will be regular reviews of the implementation procedures; most likely every year and then would move to every three years. The implementation procedures are not unchangeable and any suggested changes are not tied to a review schedule. Changes could be made at any time. The goal is to achieve the widest most diverse applicant pool while still implementing the policy.

#### **PROPOSAL**

12/07/15-21 RS.16.04\* Resolution on the Discriminatory Nature of the New University of Illinois Criminal Background Check Policy

Emmert, a coauthor of the resolution, introduced the resolution and moved approval of the resolution.

12/07/15-22 The motion was seconded and discussion followed.

The robust discussion centered on the belief that the background check policy is discriminatory and also contradictory. Wilson clarified that voting in favor of the resolution would mean the voter is opposed to the background check policy that the Board has put into place.

12/07/15-23 Emmert (LAS) moved to close debate. The motion was seconded. With a two thirds majority, debate was declared closed.

12/07/15-24 By show of hands (55 yes/35 no), the motion to adopt resolution RS.16.04 was approved.

#### **ILLINOIS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

Benjamin McCall, Associate Director for Campus Sustainability

12/07/15-25 Chair Miller made a motion to postpone the Illinois Climate Action Plan presentation. The motion was seconded and approved by voice.

#### **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

12/07/15-26 EP.16.39\* EPC Administrative Approvals through November 30, 2015

12/07/15-27 SC.16.26\* BOT Observer Report – November 12, 2015

12/07/15-28 SUR.16.01\* SURSMAC Meeting Report – October 13, 2015

12/07/15-29 GP.16.01\* Advice of the Committee on General University Policy on Resolution 16.04

12/07/15-30 GP.16.02\* Comments on the Background Check Policy

12/07/15-31 EQ.16.01\* Background Check Policy Comments from EQ

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Jenny Roether, Senate Clerk

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

A video recording of these proceedings can be found at <https://go.illinois.edu/senate>