

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Senate Executive Committee
(Final; Information)

SC.18.13 2017-2018 Annual Report

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 University of Illinois System (System) President: once in January for a general discussion of the state of the System, and once in June to evaluate Chancellor Jones (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.a); 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 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Vice Chancellors, including the Provost, have held office for less than two years.

In the summary that follows, there is no 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. These items may be found in the minutes of each meeting. The summary below lists issues specific to a given meeting.

A major focus of SEC this year has been the “internal process audit” carried out by Darla Hill and Kevin Jones of the Office of University Audits. 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. Action on their report will be considered by the SEC at its first meeting of the 2018-2019 academic year, 27 August, 2018. Preliminary meetings with as many SEC members as possible are being held in June and July 2018.

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 visiting Chinese scholar Yingying Zhang; President Trump’s travel ban on people from certain countries; and the consequences of the current administration’s policies on UIUC’s undocumented students. A series of revisions to the *University Statutes* was submitted for its first reading; in addition, Shawn Gilmore, Chair of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP), pointed out that a proposed revision to the *University Statutes*, ST72, was sent to the President by the University Senates Conference (USC) several years ago and has still not been acted on.

October: The Chair of the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP), Nick Burbules, reported that GUP was working on a Faculty Guide, which would be posted on the Senate website when completed. Wynne Korr, outgoing Dean of the School of Social Work, gave a presentation on public engagement at UIUC. Two resolutions were proposed for transmittal to the Senate: (1) Illinois Student Government (ISG) proposed that the

University recognize indigenous people on what is officially Columbus Day; (2) Senator 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 *University 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; the objectionable ad taken out by the Suburban Express bus company; the continuing uncertainty for undocumented students, and the Provost's committee on free speech. Professor Kevin Pitts, Department of Physics, College of Engineering, gave a presentation about online education at UIUC.

February: There was considerable discussion of the administration's decision to place Jay Rosenstein 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 GEO strike, SEC met in the Natural History 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 they 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 three campuses to one system comprising of three 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 System. Such complications will probably delay completion of the *University Statutes* revisions. Martin Wong, Executive Associate Dean of the College of Engineering, gave a presentation on the partnership between UIUC and Zhejiang University (ZJU).

May: This meeting comprised the SEC's meeting with the Chancellor to review the Vice Chancellors. Due to the discussion of personnel matters, the meeting was held in executive session.

June: SEC met with President Killeen to discuss the Chancellor. In addition, there were two meetings of SEC members with University Auditors; a third is scheduled for 12 July.

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bettina Francis, Chair

Nancy O'Brien, Vice Chair

Nicholas Burbules

Shawn Gilmore

Kim Graber

Samuel LeRoy

William Maher

Gay Miller

Scott Morries

Bryan Parthum

Rahul Raju

Jeff Stein

Mark Steinberg