A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:10 pm on Monday, January 13, 2014 in 2407 Siebel Center, with Chair Campbell presiding.

1. **Introductions**
   
   Guests were introduced.

2. **Approval of Minutes**
   
   The minutes from December 2, 2013 were approved as written.

3. **Chair’s Remarks (R. Campbell)**
   
   Chair Campbell gave no remarks.

4. **Chancellor’s Remarks (P. Wise)**
   
   Chancellor Wise noted that over the semester break she and other University of Illinois leaders made a statement joining the AAU (Association of American Universities) opposition to the Israeli universities boycott. Wise felt the boycott was an infringement on academic freedom.

   Wise discussed the intention to formulate a plan to equalize any loss of benefits due to the pension reform. Adesida added that a framework for this plan was targeted for May 2014. The committee that will be formed to address the benefits equalization will include members from each campus and input from the campus Senates.

5. **Academic Freedom and the Call for Boycotts**
   
   Chair Campbell noted that the University Senates Conference (USC) Chair and Vice Chair also made a statement on Academic Freedom in regards to the Israeli universities boycott. SEC was unable to act over the semester break. Campbell proposed that the SEC take action by making a statement regarding the Israeli universities boycott, or endorsing those already made.

   Graber made a motion that the SEC endorses the statement made by Chancellor Wise. Tolliver seconded the motion and the motion was approved by voice.

6. **Ad Hoc Committee on Compensation Review (CRC) Charge Letter**
   
   Campbell read the charge letter* to the committee. The ad hoc CRC would write the proposed bylaws and submit the recommendation to the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) to establish the CRC as a standing committee of the Senate. Campbell’s intention is to have the ad hoc CRC submit a report to the Office of the Provost by the end of the semester/summer. Every year there after the standing CRC would report annually.

   A question was asked about the process for forming an ad hoc committee and Graber replied that in the past, the SEC chair formed ad hoc committees. A few SEC members questioned the urgency of the timeline for writing a report. Wise responded that salary discrepancies were an item outlined in
the Task Force Report on Faculty Issues and Concerns to be addressed. Campbell also mentioned the issue became urgent due to the pension reform. Maher noted that no formal procedures exist for forming ad hoc committees. Maher plans to mention the lack of a documented procedure to the USSP at a future meeting.

Graber made a motion that Chair Campbell issue the proposed charge letter for the ad hoc CRC. Maher abstained, and the motion passed by voice.

7. Feedback on the Honorary Degree Committee
Campbell discussed forming an ad hoc committee to advise the SEC chair on a new procedure to select and approve candidates for honorary degrees. Campbell expressed his desire to have a new process in place so that the candidates for next year could be considered under a new process. Discussion followed regarding what might be allowed under the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) to keep honorary candidate information private and confidential. SEC Vice Chair Graber would serve as chair. The goal the ad hoc committee is to discuss the issues and make a recommendation on handling future honorary degrees.

A motion was made to create the ad hoc committee on honorary degrees. The motion was seconded and passed by voice.

8. Future Senate Election Procedures
Campbell would like to move to electronic voting in electing faculty senators. The Office of the Senate would provide the electronic means to hold elections in the departments. Departments will still have control over the elections and would certify the results. Maher was concerned about the possibility of an electronic voting application conflicting with the Election Rules for the Faculty Electorate. Campbell continued by noting that the database would allow each unit access to information. The current process includes having the elections and credentials chair certify the election results.

9. Pension Legislation
Kindt suggested not implementing any policies or procedures at this point in response to the pension reform due to the complexity of the numerous changes that have gone through the legislature. There are three suits filed and a fourth suit might be filed soon. A fifth suit is anticipated from the Chicago based unions. If individuals have concerns, SURS (State Universities Retirement System) can be contacted for expert advice.

As the chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits, Kindt expressed his desire to have close contact and to work in conjunction with the CRC.

10. Proposed Provost Communication on Specialized Faculty (B. Wilson & K. Galvin)
The motivation for this initiative came from the Senate Task Force Report on Faculty Issues and Concerns, national concerns regarding non-tenure track faculty, title confusion and proliferation, and a desire to do more to recognize the contribution of this group of employees.

Specialized faculty members include a range of nearly 40 titles of non-tenure system employees who are categorized as “other academics” by the University Statutes, Article IX, Section 3c. There are three main categories of specialized faculty; teaching, research, and clinical. Title modifiers include adjunct and visiting.

This document establishes foundational policies and practices include hiring procedures, offer letters, clear job descriptions and performance expectations, annual performance reviews, and access to grievance policies and procedures. We want to recruit and retain the best employees in these positions. This set of guidelines outlines career advancement by articulating promotional tracks and recognizing a “teaching professor” title. A new Provost’s Communication is forthcoming on promotional procedures for research, clinical and teaching professor tracks. Multi-year contracts are encouraged with certain promotions/titles.
The next steps planned are conversations with units, consideration of budgetary implications, and control and timeline will be at the unit level.

Tolliver noted that this draft communication was presented to the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP) and the draft was unanimously approved by the committee. GUP members are very supportive.

Wilson reported that this draft communication has been shared a draft with the Council of Deans where a few suggestions were made. Those suggestions are now incorporated into the latest version. Nothing new is being added other than the “teaching professor”. Provost Communication #9 was used to create a parallel document for specialized faculty.

Grabber made a motion to endorse the Provost Communication on specialized faculty. Tolliver seconded the motion and the motion passed by voice.

11. Urbana Senate Observer
Roy Campbell will serve as the Urbana Senate Observer at the January 22 & 23 Board of Trustees meeting in Chicago.

12. Selection of the SEC Subcommittee to Lead the In-Depth Review of Vice Chancellor Romano
Suggested members included Matthew Wheeler, Shao Guo, and Abbas Aminmansour. Prasanta Kalita and Calvin Lear will serve as alternates if needed.

13. New Business
No new business.

14. Announcements
No announcements.

15. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Jenny Roether
Clerk of the Senate

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