A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:14 pm on Monday, Monday, March 3, 2014 in 232 English Building, with Chair Campbell presiding.

1. **Introductions**
   Guests were introduced.

2. **Approval of Minutes**
   The minutes from January 27, 2014 and February 3, 2014 were approved as written.

3. **Chair’s Remarks** (R. Campbell)
   Campbell commended Sandretto’s effort to produce a report and presentation on the University budget. Campbell noted the various important topics on today’s agenda and thanked the Chancellor for her forthcoming announcement.

4. **Chancellor’s Remarks** (P. Wise)
   Wise announced Rachel Park as the newly hired employee of the Office of the Senate. The Senate Office staff will be working with the College of Engineering to modernize the Senate Office which includes archiving a large number of Senate documents that are only in hard copy format.

   Wise touched on the issue of pensions and noted that President Easter has been spending a significant amount of time in Chicago discussing pensions and advocating for the University on this issue.

   On February 23, UI Labs was announced as the winner of a $70 million grant from the Pentagon in a national bid for a digital manufacturing institute. The federal funds were matched by $250 million from private industry and state and city government.

5. **Provost Document on Specialized Faculty**
   Wilson reported that there were very vigorous discussions surrounding the Provost document on Specialized Faculty at the February 10 Senate meeting. Wilson felt that the amount of consulting that she and her staff had done was not publicized enough. After the February 10 Senate discussion, Wilson’s team conducted a survey including all employees that comprise the Specialized Faculty classification. The survey revealed that Specialized Faculty was the preferred term the 24% that responded to the survey. The open ended comments were constructive and suggestions were achievable.
Maher noted the confusion that surrounded the motion to endorse the guiding principles during the February 10 Senate meeting. Campbell suggested making it clear that the SEC is asking the Senate to endorse the guiding principles and not the title of Specialized Faculty or the entirety of the document. Tolliver noted that the process or implementation to fulfill the principles is not part of the principles. The SEC agreed that a very brief presentation by Wilson and a motion to endorse the guiding principles would be appropriate at the March 10 Senate meeting.

6. **Senate Budget Committee Revised Report** (M. Sandretto)
Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget Michael Sandretto presented information on the current University budget. The PowerPoint slides* presented a condensed version of the 24 page Financial Overview document*.

Sandretto reported that pensions were drastically underfunded and that the reporting rules are complex and unintuitive which makes understanding pensions difficult. If the courts reject the State’s revised pension rules, the State will be unable to remedy the deficits.

The University’s financial statements are also complex with the incredibly detailed and extensive accounting rules. Sandretto reviewed bond ratings and debt capacity, and also unreported assets and liabilities. When the University adds pension liabilities to the balance sheet, it may have the highest ratio of liabilities to assets of any major research university in the nation. This could affect the University’s bond ratings.

Sandretto discussed unrestricted cash versus excess cash. Several SEC members expressed their concern that these terms, if presented to the full Senate, would cause confusion and misinterpretation of the University’s current financial outlook.

7. **Revisit Merit Board Discussion**
Campbell noted that the Executive Director of the State Universities Civil Service System (SUCCS), Lewis T. (Tom) Morelock requested to meet with Campbell. Wise suggested that Campbell speak with Associate Provost for Human Resources Elyne Cole and/or Assistant Vice President, University Human Resources Maureen Parks before meeting with Morelock. Wise and Adesida agreed the issues surrounding the Merit Board decisions are very complex. Campbell will consult with Cole and/or Parks before meeting with Morelock.

8. **Proposed Compensation Review Standing Committee**
Campbell noted that the current Compensation Review Committee (CRC) is currently an ad hoc committee of the SEC and that going forward the membership and duties would need to be reviewed if it were to become a standing committee of the Senate. Maher noted that in order for the CRC to become a standing committee of the Senate, the proposal would need to go through the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) to be submitted to the full Senate. Maher suggested that the current ad hoc CRC draft proposed language as the original charge indicates.

Kindt, as chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits (FB), met with Jeff Brown, ad hoc CRC Chair, and discussed jurisdiction conflict due to the overlap in the committee charges. Campbell indicated that any decisions about determining if the ad hoc CRC should become a standing committee would wait for the ad hoc CRC report to the SEC.

9. **UIC Strike**
Campbell brought the topic of the strike at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) campus to make the SEC aware of the situation. SEC members were pointed to UIC Office of the Provost website for more information on union demands and the administration’s response. Campbell suggested that the Urbana-Champaign campus may want to review its shared governance practices with due regard to the current strike situation on the Chicago campus.
10. **Setting of the Senate Agenda**
   The Senate agenda for March 10, 2014 approved as amended.
   
The Budget presentation was postponed to the April 14, 2014 Senate agenda.

11. **Current Benefits Issues**
    Chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits Kindt reminded those present that if an individual chooses to contact 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.

    The four court cases that were previously submitted on pensions have been consolidated, but the fifth case has not been submitted at this time. The fifth case will soon be filed in Champaign County.

12. **New Business**
    None

13. **Announcements**
    None

14. **Adjournment**
    The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.

   Jenny Roether
   Clerk of the Senate

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