A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:10 pm on Monday, November 30, 2015 in 232 English Building, with Chair Miller presiding.

1. **Introductions**
   Introductions were made.

2. **Approval of Minutes**
   The minutes from November 9, 2015 were approved as amended.

3. **Chair’s Remarks**
   SEC Chair Miller noted that Antoinette Burton, Professor in History will serve as the chair of the search committee to assist the President in selecting a chancellor. The State of Illinois budget affairs continue to be troubled. A high level of spending continues even without a budget and with anticipated shortfalls. The Campus and University as a whole are managing, but cannot sustain the current budget situation. Reserves continue to be reduced by $75 million per month.

   Concern continues over human rights at the national level. 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.

4. **Chancellor’s Remarks**
   Interim Chancellor Wilson noted the budget cuts at the department level and stressed a model of constraint in spending. Illinois MAP (Monetary Award Program) grants are still unfunded, but the campus is assuring students and encouraging them to register for spring courses. The hope is that the state will honor this commitment to students. The $13 million per semester in MAP funding supports are large percentage of African American and Latino/a students.

   Wilson addressed the recent Facebook incident and assured students the campus would continue to be diligent in taking the initiative to have harmful pages taken down. Not to infringe on freedom of speech, but to ensure our students safety and wellbeing. There are many educational efforts on race and discrimination across the campus. Not all of these efforts are widely publicized.

   Time has been spent on undergraduate recruitment to increase African American yield. The new Chancellor Access grant yield has increased from 42% to 67%. Additional programs targeting high school students are being built, especially in Chicago. A mandatory implicit bias training is in place for all employee search
committee members. The TOP (Targets of Opportunity) program recently produced 20 new hires. The EDGE (Enhancing Diversity, Guiding Excellence) and DRIVE (Diversity Realized at Illinois Visioning Excellence) programs will also continue. There is also a new postdoctoral program offered for underrepresented groups. The continuing challenge is communication and letting people know the programs that are offered.

5. Items Referred to Committee
   A. Background Check Policy

   Oberdeck, Chair of the Senate Committee on Equal Opportunity and Inclusion, circulated a draft document in response to the proposed revisions to the background check policy to SEC members. Oberdeck summarized the committee document noting that the broad principles laid out in the policy are contradictory, a number of quality criteria are applied across a large number of disciplines, and the periodic assessments should be conducted consistently.

   Burbules, Chair of the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP), reported that GUP has been reviewing the background check policy and implementation documents along with the EQ committee analysis. The GUP committee is in agreement with many of the points that the EQ committee has raised. The GUP committee will have a final report after GUP meets tomorrow.

   The timeline for feedback was discussed. Chair Miller noted that the purpose of the reports by EQ and GUP are in response to the request by the Senate for the committees to review the background check policy. The ad hoc background check policy committee chaired by Vice President Pierre will submit the final version of the proposed revisions of the policy in two weeks for the January Board meeting. The administration is receptive to the feedback the Senate and Senate committees are providing. Burbules mentioned that GUP had sent advice directly to VP Pierre. SEC members agreed that the committee reports should go to the full Senate.

   Concerns were expressed that the background check policy defeats diversity goals. University Administration is trying to create a policy that is in alignment with diversity goals.

   Oberdeck requested the EQ committee have until Wednesday at 5pm to finalize the report for the Senate packet. There were no objections by SEC members.

   B. Assessment of the *ad hoc* Licensing Advisory Committee

   None.

   C. Campus-wide Advice on Proper Use of Electronic Communications for Univ. Business

   None.

   D. Guidelines for Senate Meetings

   None.

6. New Business
   A. Setting of the December 16, 2015 Senate Agenda

   SEC members discussed resolution RS.16.04 in relation to the background check policy and implementation process at length. Student safety was discussed in direct relation to the new background check requirement. Burbules, as chair of the GUP committee, noted that the GUP committee plans to approve advice of the committee in response to RS.16.04.

   Maher moved to close debate. The motion was seconded and approved.

   Aminmansour made a motion to include the advice of the GUP committee on RS.16.04 as a report on the December 8 Senate agenda. The motion was seconded and approved.

   Feser suggested including a presentation on the background check implementation process to distinguish the difference between the policy and the implementation process. Francis made a motion
to request a 10 minute presentation on the background check implementation process. The motion was seconed and approved. The presentation will appear directly before resolution RS.16.04.

Maher moved approval of the amended Senate agenda. The motion was seconed and approved by voice.

7. Announcements/Verbal Reports for Information
   A. BOT Observer Report – November 12, 2015
      The Report is included on the December 16, 2015 Senate agenda.
   B. January 21 BOT Urbana Senate Observer (Chicago) – request for volunteer
      Anita Mixon will serve as the Urbana Senate Observer at the January 21 BOT meeting.
   C. Wilson announced that Matt Hill will be pursuing an internship and Sam LeRoy will be filling the undergraduate SEC position.

8. Adjournment
   The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Jenny Roether
Clerk of the Senate

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