UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
Senate Executive Committee
Minutes
May 16, 2016

Present: Chair Gay Miller, Vice-Chair Kim Graber, Michael Bohlmann, Nicholas Burbules, Bettina Francis, Prasanta Kalita, Calvin Lear, Sam LeRoy, William Maher, Kathryn Oberdeck, Michael Sandretto


Guests: Interim Chancellor Barbara Wilson, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Policies Abbas Benmamoun, Associate Chancellor Katherine Galvin, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Edward Feser, Director of Strategic Communications Chris Harris

Media: News-Gazette – Julie Wurth

A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:10 pm on Monday, May 16, 2016 in 232 English Building, with Chair Miller presiding.

1. Introductions
   Introductions were made by non-members.

2. Approval of Minutes
   The minutes from April 25, 2016 were approved as distributed.

3. Chair’s Remarks
   Chair Miller gave no remarks.

4. Chancellor’s Remarks
   Chancellor Wilson commented on the Commencement speaker, Jeff Huber. Wilson thought Huber was phenomenal and encouraged anyone that was unable to attend to watch the Commencement speech on YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVAnC_-zF_E

   Wilson noted that Illinois does not do a particularly good job of strategically communicating the campus’s strengths and tends to be more re-active than pro-active. A Marketing Council was created with various stakeholders to address communication issues. Recommendations have been sent to the Chancellor on making structural changes to be more effective and cohesive communicators, and to also coordinate communications better. In this competitive environment, Illinois needs to let people know about our accomplishments.

5. New Business
   A. IBHE Faculty Appointment
      Chair Miller stated that Governor Rauner appointed University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign part-time lecturer John Bambenek as the sole faculty representative to the IBHE (Illinois Board of Higher Education). Chair Miller noted that Jennifer Creasey from the Office of Governmental Relations indicated the appointment had not been confirmed by the State Senate. The Senate has 60 session days to do this. Creasey suggested that anyone who would like to share thoughts on this appointment call the Springfield offices of the members of the Executive Appointment Committee and speak with their staff.

      SEC members were very concerned about the Bambenek appointment and that Bambenek does not represent the campus and the faculty. Bambenek does not have a higher degree and is a part-time employee. SEC members came to the consensus that Bambenek’s qualifications and position are not representative of the faculty of this campus. Burbules will write the initial draft letter of concern regarding the Bambenek appointment on behalf of the SEC. Senate Clerk Roether will distribute the draft letter to senators via email to ask for feedback on the letter.
B. UIUC Faculty Representative for Health Care Task Force
Chair Miller was contacted by Walter Knorr, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and asked for suggestions on a faculty member to be part of the Health Care Task Force. Chair Miller contacted Sean Anderson and Melody Allison as members of Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits and both were willing to serve. Chair Miller has already provided these names to VP Knorr due to the very tight timeline for the work. No additional names were suggested during the meeting. Miller requested names be provided as soon as possible if there are others to consider. Feser added that the Task Force would be examining the State of Illinois group health insurance provided to University employees in light of possible modifications to the plans and rate structures. All state employees’ share of insurance premiums could possibly increase by two to three times the current rate, and could be retroactively applied.

C. Budget Reform Steering Group
Chair Miller received a request from Provost Feser for member suggestions on the Budget Reform Steering Group. Chair Miller contacted members of the Senate Committee on the Budget Michael LeRoy (LER) and Stephanie Davidson (LAW) as potential members and both have agreed to serve. Chair Miller also contacted future Budget committee member Marius Junge (LAS), but has not received a response at this time.

Feser noted that the Steering Group will help to create guidance in the overall budget process and guidance for all other budget related task forces and committees. The CBATF (Campus Budget Advisory Task Force) ends this year and will soon submit a final report. The Steering Group will review issues such as weaknesses in the budget model and other substantive issues. Reviewing the entire system will take time. There are some members of CBATF that were suggested by the Senate and could be candidates for the other task forces. The CBATF report will be released once it is finalized.

D. i>Clicker Voting
Chair Miller asked for a discussion of when and how i>Clickers should be used at Senate meetings. Some concerns have been raised related to the voting methods used at Senate meetings. Do you know if individuals voting during voice votes are senators? Local influence of the individuals physically near could also affect the way senators decide to vote. Votes that are declared unanimous could potentially have had nay votes, but those individuals did not feel comfortable objecting by voice. SEC members agreed there should be standardized voting procedures at Senate meetings. Voting with i>Clickers ensures only senators are voting and also gives a certain integrity to the process. A check-out process including writing down the time a senator left if s/he left the meeting early was also suggested.

6. Executive Session with the Chancellor to Review the Vice Chancellors
The SEC moved into executive session at 3:51 pm to discuss the annual reviews of the Vice Chancellors: Interim Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement Ed Ewald, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Ed Feser, Vice Chancellor for Research Peter Schiffer, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Renee Romano.

The SEC moved out of executive session at 5:20 pm.

7. Announcements/Verbal Reports for Information
None.

8. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Jenny Roether
Clerk of the Senate