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

1. **Introductions**
   Introductions were made by guests and SEC members. Chair Miller invited others at SEC to join her in welcoming our new Chancellor, Robert Jones, to his first SEC meeting, and others joined her in a warm round of applause.

2. **Approval of Minutes**
   The minutes from September 12, 2016 were approved as distributed.

3. **Chair’s Remarks**
   Chair Miller reported that she attended the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) faculty governance leadership conference last week at Michigan State University (MSU). Terry Curry, Associate Provost/Associate Vice-President for Academic Human Resources at MSU spoke at the conference about how working together and soliciting broad input from faculty are his reasons for success. Miller noted that Curry gave the example of a successful outcome of containing healthcare cost increases while incurring major financial cuts through robust faculty governance. MSU was able to keep annual Healthcare cost increases within 5%. MSU faculty governance tied at a ranking of 6th for engagement according to US News World and Report. The only other institutions with a higher ranking were religious based institutions.

   Miller also reported that the topic of the best and appropriate roles of faculty was discussed at the BTAA conference. Concern was raised by other Big Ten institutions about the erosion of the tenure system with the increase in non-tenure system faculty. Also, importantly, she reflected that giving specialized faculty all privileges available to regular faculty, combined with pay which is often less than regular faculty, provided incentives for administration to tip the balance even more strongly toward specialized faculty and away from tenure stream faculty.

4. **Chancellor’s Remarks**
   Chancellor Robert Jones shared his pleasure with being at Illinois. Jones did not anticipate his first communication to the campus would be about a tragic senseless shooting. Jones felt it was very important to communicate to the campus and have accurate information about the situation. Jones was pleased to see how seamlessly the University of Illinois police department worked with the Champaign and Urbana police departments. Jones also noted he attended a vigil that the Illinois Student Senate (ISS) sponsored. The vigil was well organized and well attended. This shows how thoughtful and engaged our young people are at Illinois.
Jones thanked those involved with the transition team. Jones plans to do more learning and listening than speaking and has had very dynamic and robust conversations with various constituents across the campus.

Jones took time on Saturday morning to meet with those attending the Black Student Reunion. This group took up a very critical issues of recruitment, admission, and graduation of African American students. It was clear this very important constituency group was going to roll up their sleeves and work on these critical issues.

5. Items Referred to Committee

A. Statement on the Ethical Conduct of Research

Chair of the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP) Burbules reported that Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) Peter Schiffer previously shared a draft of the State on the Ethical Conduct of Research (Statement) with GUP. The system wide draft Statement has been reviewed by the GUP committee and GUP has shared suggested revisions (*draft document distributed to SEC members) with VCR Schiffer. Burbules suggested that once the Statement returns to the SEC from VCR Schiffer that the Statement be sent to the Senate as a report. After the document is presented to the Urbana Senate, the University Senates Conference (USC) will transmit the Statement to the other two senates on the Chicago and Springfield campuses for comments.

SEC members discussed the benefits of sending the Statement to the Senate as an action item that is presented for action. Maher made a motion to send the Statement to the Senate as an action item for vote once the document is returned to the SEC from VCR Schiffer. The motion was seconded and passed by vote without objection.

6. New Business

A. Enrollment Management

Associate Provost for Enrollment Management Keith Marshall noted that the majority of the information shared in the presentation* today is for undergraduate admissions. Graduate and doctoral students are processed by the Graduate College in conjunction with the admitting college.

Campus Enrollment Management (EM) is robust and active including the Office of Undergraduate Admission, Office of Student Financial Aid, Office of the Registrar, Principal Scholars Program, Office of Communication for Enrollment Management, EM Data Analysis and System Services, and EM Shared Services. EM sends out over 3.3 million print and digital communications to students.

The number of applications and enrollments have steadily risen. If there is an issue with anything, it is yield. Illinois is catching up on financial aid offerings. Financial aid has been the most common reason given by students that have been admitted but chosen to attend a different institution.

EM uses a holistic review of student applicants. Students are admitted to colleges; Admissions is a service unit. Admissions does the bulk of reading of applications and admit based on criteria provided by the colleges.

A record number of freshman, 7,593 students, enrolled this year with 21.6% of the students as first generation in their family to go to college. There were also a record number of applicants this year.

Illinois is 8th on the list of Association of American Universities (AAU) institutions for ACT scores. We are 3rd in serving state residents among the Big Ten. The freshman class is the most diverse class ever. Illinois’ 2015 freshman class had the second most underrepresented students in the Big Ten.

Retention and graduation rates exceed national and peer averages. Freshman retention is at 94% and six-year graduation rates are at 84%. Six-year graduation rate gaps have been cut in half since over the past 15 years.

Romano stated that there are many programs on campus aimed at retention including social, cultural, and academic support. Each college has special support. Tucker gave the example of the LAS Access and
Achievement program. We are also providing more support for those that are less prepared. There are numerous efforts around campus, but these efforts have not been coordinated centrally by campus.

CASA (Committee on Student Athletes) was created in 1983. The admissions deans from each undergraduate college are members of CASA. Student athletes are brought to this committee if the applicants are late or did not meet minimum requirements. Irwin Center was designed to create successful student athletes with surrounding support.

Tucker reported that the campus has grown about 1% per year over the decades. Most growth has come from undergraduates; generally a larger freshman class. Only the University of Texas Austin has a bigger freshman class. We have a good balance of quality and size. Illinois is 12th or 13th in degrees awarded nationally.

An Enrollment Management Strategy Committee (EMSC) was created with Tucker chairing and Eric Meyer as the Senate representative. Steve Witt from the Library is also a senator. The EMSC focused on University Administration’s request for growth. The EMSC was asked to develop plans to increase degrees awarded by 10%, 15%, and 20% over the next six years - not annually and not specific to graduate or undergraduate. Degrees awarded could be increased by increasing graduation rates, not just by admitting more students.

As a flagship institution for the state, we should focus on impact. Impact = excellence x size. Excellence relies on enrolling highly qualified, high-potential students, enrolling diverse groups of students, providing first-rate educational experience, and matching enrollments to program capacities. Therefore, grow only where it makes sense.

In the world of EM, there are two kinds of programs – high demand programs that enroll to capacity or programs that have more capacity to enroll than there is student demand. It is not easy to shift programs from one category to another.

Doctoral enrollments are driven by faculty research and departmental teaching needs. There is significant potential in master’s programs and many are being planned or expanded.

Concern was expressed for hiring doctoral students if a job market is not there. Tucker replied that over the last two years first destination surveys have been started. Data is available online for one complete cycle for baccalaureate degrees.

Tucker stated that retention and completion rates inform you about student experience. Every degree program is required to have learning outcomes and are required to keep track of the outcomes. The Council on Learning Outcomes Assessment will be collecting data.

In response to a question about yield, Marshall stated that there is an effort to close the gap on yield. Illinois is solidly ranked in the middle of the Big Ten. It comes down to, with 7,600 students, we have very bright students and most expect some type of merit aid. The higher the academic achievement, the more difficult it is to attract them. They just have more opportunities. There is a current effort to work on the ability to provide merit based aid. There is also a growing gap of unmet need and the campus is trying to increase the $13 million currently spent on need-based aid.

SEC members came to the consensus that the EM information presented by Marshall and Tucker would be worthwhile to have presented to the full Senate. Marshall and Tucker both agreed.

The full Enrollment Management report can be found on the Office of the Provost website: http://provost.illinois.edu/committees/enrollment-management.html.

B. Attributes for Provost’s designee (ex officio) on Elections and Credentials Committee
Chair Miller requested input on identifying attributes of the person designated by the Provost to serve as an ex officio member of the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials (EC). Maher gave his opinion that having Sandy Jones from Academic Human Resources serve as the Chancellor’s designee ex officio
member on the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) has been invaluable. Maher suggested the Provost’s designee on EC be someone with a similar background that can provide relevant information on the different employee categories since EC determines eligibility to serve on the Senate and Senate committees.

C. Setting of the October 10 Senate Agenda
As an author of proposed agenda item RS.17.01, Resolution on Health Care Premiums, Oberdeck noted that she and the other resolution authors appreciated the information presented over the summer about the anticipated healthcare premium increases, but many faculty were away and not aware of the increases or that this issue is tied to ASCME (American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees) negotiations with the Central Management Services (CMS). The resolution called for a presentation and a conversation at a public meeting or “town hall” about where things stand, how they might be changing, and what the university’s response is to the situation.

Burbules made a motion to refer the resolution to the Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits (FB). The motion was seconded and discussion followed.

An open forum hosted by the campus discuss the healthcare premium issues was suggested. Feser and Jones agreed to consider organizing a public forum. Oberdeck noted that information is good, but that action is better. The forum should be a place for information but also to give ways the campus can act on the situation.

Given the prospect of a public forum, Oberdeck agreed to hold the resolution from the October 10 Senate agenda, and Burbules withdrew his motion to refer the resolution to the FB Committee. The resolution will be resubmitted with an actionable strategy for response.

The Enrollment Management presentation given by Marshall and Tucker will also be presented to the Senate.

Kindt, as Chair of the FB Committee, requested five minutes to speak about benefits issues at the October 10 Senate meeting.

The October 10, 2016 Senate agenda was approved by voice as amended.

7. Announcements/Verbal Reports for Information

A. Biannual Update on Background Checks
Feser presented a short summary table* on the background checks that have been completed and noted that on the faculty side, there has not been a case where the hire was not completed. Burbules requested that GUP and the Senate Committee on Equal Opportunity and Inclusion (EQ) have a discussion about the report before sending the report to the full Senate.


C. LeRoy noted that the Student Senate plans to propose a new constitution. Raju added that there could be impacts on Student Senate and Academic Senate student membership. Proposed changes to the constitution would bring Illinois more in line with peer institutions.

8. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Jenny Roether
Senate Clerk

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