UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
Senate Executive Committee
Minutes
January 23, 2017

Present: Chair Gay Miller, Vice Chair Kim Graber, Nicholas Burbules, Bettina Francis, George Francis, David Hanley, Harley Johnson, Sam LeRoy, William Maher, Lisa Monda-Amaya, Katheryn Oberdeck, Rahul Raju, Jeff Stein, Mark Steinberg

Absent: Sara Benson

Guests: Associate Chancellor Michael DeLorenzo, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Edward Feser, Senior Director of Strategic Communications Chris Harris, Chancellor Robert Jones, President Timothy Killeen, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Renee Romano, Vice Chancellor for Research Peter Schiffer, Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Wilson

Media: Daily Illini – Megan Jones, News-Gazette – Julie Wurth

A special meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) with the University President was called to order at 3:10 pm on Monday, January 23, 2017 in 232 English Building, with Chair Miller presiding.

1. **Introductions**
   Introductions of non-members and members were made.

2. **Annual Special Meeting with the University President**
   President Killeen began by mentioning the upcoming sesquicentennial events that are planned. Killeen mentioned much of the important work that is happening at this university. The College of Medicine (COM) continues to move forward in the accreditation and planning curriculum. Several new deans have been hired recently. Unfortunately Provost Feser is leaving and will need to be replaced first by an interim and then by a permanent Provost. Killeen expressed his gratitude for Feser’s ongoing efforts as Provost and the positive impact Feser has had in the position. Killeen credited Feser for his role in hiring some excellent new deans.

   Killeen mentioned the ongoing budgetary discussions in Springfield. This is an important period with a new assembly coming together in both Springfield and Washington DC. Killeen and his staff are paying close attention to the shifts and changes that will be coming.

   The Strategic Framework is in place and we are using it as a guide for initiatives. At each Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting, Killeen plans to highlight one aspect of the framework. Killeen focused on enrollment management at the last BOT meeting and the ambitious enrollment goals that have been set by the three universities. Enrollment management will be strategic and increase in specific areas. There is a very different model at Urbana-Champaign than at the other two universities. Student demand as well as faculty capacity play a significant role in determining enrollment strategies. We also want to focus on Illinois natives. Although in-state enrollment has increased, Illinois is second in the nation in the migration of students out of the state. Research shows that many students stay in the state where they receive their post-secondary education and we want residents to stay in Illinois. The enrollment plan is not a one size fits all, even at the college level. The analysis was done on the unit or departmental level.

   In-state tuition was frozen again, for the third year in a row. Illinois is highly competitive in quality and excellence, and we need to work on affordability. Tuition plays a role in the budget model. The university needs to become less dependent on financial support from the state and strategic enrollment is one aspect of reducing the dependency on the state.

   Philanthropic efforts will continue. Each one of the three universities will have a kickoff day to start the philanthropic campaign.
The University of Illinois Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment (IPAC) bill is being reintroduced when the senate is back in session. It will now be Senate Bill (SB) 222. IPAC is a five-year plan that ensures state support in return for meeting certain performance metrics. Killeen thanked the SEC and Senate for the insightful feedback provided during the first introduction of IPAC and for the support of IPAC which has been helpful.

Killeen mentioned the modest mid-year salary plan and the progress in increasing efficiencies across the system. The Chancellors from the three universities continue to meet regularly to support system efforts and collaborate across campuses.

Killeen mentioned the report that was released on the State of Illinois Employee Group Health Insurance. Any comments and thoughts are welcome. AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) negotiations are still underway. The University of Illinois Chicago Hospital is creating enough revenue to meet operating expenses.

Student safety issues are important. The police chiefs continue to meet and exchange best practices and communications strategies. Each university is unique and different approaches have been taken. Conversations are needed and are helpful between the three universities to compare and contrasting what works.

Communications regarding recent Presidential Executive Orders are going out to our students. Not all emails are read or digested and we want to make students are aware of the resources available. We are working hard to put resources in place for our undocumented students. This situation will continue to be monitored.

The budget is an ongoing issue. In fiscal year 2016 (FY16) there was a $482 million reduction. Some funds continue to arrive from the state. What happens now in the state assembly is critically important for what happens in FY17. The U of I Caucus is helpful and is growing. Alumni from both sides of the aisle were elected into office and there is a stronger recognition across the state for what we do.

The floor was opened for discussion and questions.

In response to a question about tuition differentials and the IPAC, Vice President Wilson replied that in-state base tuition plus mandatory fees are included in the IPAC. Tuition differentials are discretionary by college but we are committed to monitoring those differentials to ensure affordability. LeRoy inquired about the benchmarks that were outlined in the IPAC. Killeen replied that the Provosts from each university were heavily involved as the benchmarks were developed. The numbers may change as the bill gets closer to being signed. It is a compact, an agreement on both sides.

Pensions were discussed in relation to the university’s ability to attract, recruit, and retain faculty. As a state, the pension plan needs to be reviewed. Killeen is hopeful that the University will eventually gain more autonomy over pension plans. This is a longer term discussion.

Concern was raised over federal funding in the sciences. Killeen stated that the University will vigorously advocate for federal support for topical areas that our faculty excel in. We will be proactive and fight for NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities) and NEA (National Endowment for the Arts). They are both critical. In response to questions about Title IX regulations, Killeen stated that we have our own principles that we will abide by, no matter what, to create a safe environment and help ensure that students feel welcome on our campuses. Wilson added that what is happening in Washington is being closely monitored. The “It’s On Us” campaign will continue to be supported. A full-time Title IX Officer was recently hired at Urbana and will remain committed to that work.

3. **Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Search**

Chancellor Jones discussed the need to move quickly to put an Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost in place and then move forward with a search for a permanent Provost. Jones asked for feedback
on selecting an Interim Provost and on soliciting applications for a permanent Provost. Jones also suggested sending an email to senators requesting the feedback by the end of this week.

Chair Miller reminded Jones he could reach out to any member of the SEC as representatives of the Senate to aid in selecting a Provost.

Jones again noted the need to move quickly, but with input from various constituencies. Jones has already reached out to the deans and began speaking with Vice Chancellors and Vice Provosts. Jones stressed that even though the Provost position will be an interim position it is not just a placeholder. The person selected to serve as Interim Provost will need to continue moving efforts forward, including the new budget model. The floor was then opened to SEC members for discussion.

LeRoy noted the recent successful Chancellor search and suggested contacting members on that committee to solicit feedback in conducting the Provost search. Stein, as Chair of the Council on Academic Professionals (CAP), requested Chancellor Jones to also be mindful of including CAP in the search committee process.

Miller said she would send an email to all senators requesting input on the selection of an interim provost. All input would be sent directly to Chancellor Jones. Miller directed the attention of SEC members to the documents distributed relating to previous provost searches and discussion of previous Provost search processes followed.

Several members agreed that the recent process in selecting members of the Chancellors search committee worked well. Miller shared that Jones has requested he have more input in the process of selecting members of the search committee, or in selecting additional members of the search committee.

Jones relayed his preference to keep the search committee small, and said he was looking for a diverse and thoughtful group of individuals. Jones was optimistic to have a provost in place by this coming fall, but was realistic that it could take a year to fill the position. The discussion continued regarding the potential make-up of the search committee.

A subcommittee of Benson, Miller, Maher, and LeRoy was established to develop a formal draft process document to select members of the Provost search committee. The process document will be presented at the next SEC meeting with the intent to send the finalized document to the full Senate for final approval at the February 6 Senate meeting.

Feser provided insight as the current Interim Provost and noted that because of the budgetary responsibilities the position touches most aspects of this university. Feser reminded SEC to be inclusive of not only academic units, but also administrative units, and noted the importance of having a search committee that would be able to assist in selecting a well-rounded candidate.

SEC members stressed the importance of the search committee reaching out to constituencies during the search process. The topic of using a search firm was discussed. Jones replied that the best way to get candidates nationwide and internationally is to use a search firm. The possibility of using a search firm is being considered. Public forums as an aspect of the search process were also discussed as a successful aspect of the recent Chancellor search process.

4. **New Business**

   None.

5. **Adjournment**

   The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

   Jenny Roether
   Senate Clerk