UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN  
Senate Executive Committee  
Minutes  
Monday, March 27, 2017  

Present: Chair Gay Miller, Vice Chair Kim Graber, Sara Benson, Nicholas Burbules, Bettina Francis, George Francis, David Hanley, Sam LeRoy, William Maher, Katheryn Oberdeck, Rahul Raju, Jeff Stein, Mark Steinberg  
Absent: Harley Johnson, Lisa Monda-Amaya  
Guests: Chancellor Robert Jones, Senior Lecturer in English Shawn Gilmore, Senior Director of Strategic Communications Chris Harris, Campus Faculty Association Representative Rebecca Pulsifer, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Renee Romano, Vice Chancellor for Research Peter Schiffer, Academic Human Resources Director Deb Stone, Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) to the Big Ten Conference Matthew Wheeler, Interim Provost John Wilkin  
Media: News-Gazette – Julie Wurth  

A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:10 pm on Monday, March 27, 2017 in the Senate Conference Room, 232 English Building, with Chair Miller presiding.  

1. **Introductions**  
   Guests were introduced.  

2. **Approval of Minutes**  
The minutes from February 27, 2017 were approved with the following clarifications.  
   Wilkin noted that the budget presentation given at the SEC on February 27 appeared to present the RCM (Responsibility Center Management) model as the preferred budget model. The budget model is not clear at this time. There will be aspects of the RCM model included, but it will not be a full RCM model. The RCM model distributes too much autonomy, but we hope to capture the benefits of the RCM model. There needs to be strategic planning from the center. The current model is so incremented and has so many tweaks it is unclear what it does for us. We need more agility and transparency. And there needs to be some funds at the center to support strategic efforts.  
   Jones shared his desire to create more incentives in the new budget model to help continue the path to excellence. In Jones’ experience, he stated that you can have a framework for incentives, but each unit may not fit. It will not be a large universal initiative to shape priorities around.  

3. **Chair’s Remarks**  
Chair Miller reported that the overall timeline has changed for H1B visa processing. Without the Premium Processing option, the approval process for an H-1B will take an estimated 8-12 months. Departments should plan for this lengthy process. We hope that the movement of faculty, students, staff, and most importantly knowledge transfer around the world continues even given the recent constraints that have been placed on all of our institutions of higher education.  
   At the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting on March 15, 2017, President Killeen shared two important pieces of information. 1.) Our university has ranked number one for the past seven years in NSF (National Science Foundation) funding received. 2.) IPAC (Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment) has been amended and is being resubmitted; the new version will include a commitment called III (or triple I) which stands for Invest in Illinoisans. The UI pledges $170 million annually over the five years of IPAC for investing in our students for scholarship and financial support.  

4. **Chancellor’s Remarks**  
Chancellor Jones invited everyone to the Town Hall meeting on April 19. The structure of the Town Hall will be a little different with an opportunity for it to be a conversation with senior leadership team and with Vice Chancellors and others in the room to help answer questions. Hopefully this will foster a dialogue with the audience. Jones plans to address what a university is today and some of the challenges that we face as a
university. It will be a more interactive format. In the fall Jones anticipates having a state of the university address. We should have a better outlook of IPAC and about the strategic direction we need to move in.

Jones reported that individuals have been identified to serve on the provost search committee. There will be 13 members of search committee. At least nine members have faculty status. A graduate and an undergraduate student will serve on the committee, along with an academic professional representative. It is a diverse and nimble committee. We have contracted with a search firm that has experience in higher education. We will be announcing the full committee and issuing a charge letter soon.

Vice Chancellor Romano is planning to retire at the end of the academic year. She has been actively recruiting candidates for her replacement and hope to have a very strong pool of candidates. The nominations close on Thursday of this week. Peter Mortensen is chairing search committee.

We welcomed Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, Barry Benson, to the university. We look forward to him shaping the comprehensive campaign in the fall.

There have been many issues affecting us at the federal level. The H-1B visa process is a great concern. The premium process as Miller mention has been discontinued. This is a process we heavily utilized. Of the 300-400 faculty and/or students here are on the H-1B visa, about 80% used the premium process.

Jones signed on behalf of the University onto a letter going to Congress. Cutting important programs like Pell grants, work study programs, and other federal financial aid programs threatens to create a very unstable higher education system. Again we are signing on with other higher education institutions on this particular issue.

The external review of UI diversity programs was completed. This was a much longer process than we expected. The initial draft report was delivered during spring break. The report is being factually vetted and reviewed by University Counsel. This is an opportunity to think about our short-term and long-term strategic plan for diversity.

Jones and Vice Chancellor Schiffer visited with legislators in Washington to discuss the potential defunding of the NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities) and the NEA (National Endowment for the Arts). Jones also visited with the NSF Director. UI receives 1% of the overall NSF budget. We were thanked by the NSF for the level of researchers and proposals that were submitted to the agency. Jones shared that this has never happened in his 38 years in higher education.

In response to question about the external diversity report, Jones responded that once the report is finalized it will be available online. Jones also offered to send it to a Senate committee or to the SEC. Jones added that there are some recommendations that we need to move on now instead of waiting on a strategic planning exercise. Jones wants to engage the SEC and Senate on how the campus moves forward with the report.

Burbules requested that the diversity report be send to the SEC and EQ committee. Burbules expressed appreciativeness with the model where there are more focused discussions in the committees first. Jones added that the diversity report is currently a draft. Content is not being modified, but there is work being done on how the information is framed and vetting the report for factual accurateness. Jones hopes to move the report out of draft status in the next 5-10 days. There will be items to address now and other items that we need to be poised to accomplish with a larger strategic plan for the fall.

5. **Old Business**

A. **SC.17.12: Urbana-Champaign Senate Statement on Inclusion, Tolerance, and the Free Pursuit of Knowledge**

Burbules, Oberdeck, and Steinberg collaborated on a revised version of the statement* which was presented to the SEC for approval. After a brief introduction, Burbules moved that the SEC endorse or express support of the statement and also add the item to the next Senate agenda for consideration by the full Senate. The motion was seconded and a short discussion followed.

Oberdeck and Steinberg noted other statements signed by various faculty members in support of similar issues as part of the motivation to present something comparable to the Senate.
The motion was approved with one opposed. Miller asked the three authors to present the item at the April 3 Senate meeting.

6. **New Business**

A. **Update on the Academics of Student Athletes**

Tom Ulen, chair of Athletic Board for 8 years, presented an overview of the Academic Review System (ARS) for Athletics. The slide presentation* was distributed in print form. Each of the 19 intercollegiate sports teams is reviewed every six semesters. Three teams are reviewed each semester. The review covers the previous six semesters since the last review. The ARS was put in place in 1992 and the student athletes have improved over that period. The review is to compare student athletes on a particular team with non-athletic students. Student athletes are also compared with other Big Ten universities and also with Division One athletes. The chair of the Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee (APEC) prepares a report for each sport under review which includes the athletic director and the associate athletic director of the team. Ulen shared some statistics on student athletes’ academic records for fall 2016 including that 42 student athletes had a 4.0 GPA, 56% of student athletes achieved a 3.0 GPA or higher, and the graduation rate is higher than the overall Illinois student body.

The Athletic Board has reviewed concerns outside of those specifically mandated by the Senate such as the clustering concern in the Big Ten. There does not seem to be any undue clustering in a college or in any classes. All colleges and most majors are represented. Overuse of independent study was also a concern. There were only 11 students taking an independent study. Half of those were a requirement of their course. There is a required form for independent study that must be filled out by the student and professor.

Ulen noted that online course have become a benefit for student athletes and allows students the ability to take classes online over summer. The Athletic Director and head coaches understand the expected standard of academic excellence. Most of the head coaches see this as a positive recruiting element. There have been no sports out of compliance with the review done to Senate standards. There are some units that provide some extracurricular programs for student athletes such as community involvement and outreach, national speakers on student athlete issues, a leadership academy, and career readiness programs.

Miller inquired if the ARS should be reviewed since it was established 25 years ago. Ulen responded that the ARS standards more stringent that what is required, but agreed that a review of the ARS should be done.

In response to the class attendance criteria, Ulen responded that the NCAA (National College Athletic Association) has criteria for the number of classes that can be missed. Class attendance is monitored closely and a form must be filed for missed class days. Wheeler added that the Senate determines the number of days that can be missed, which is set at seven. Ulen could only think of one instance where a student athlete missed more than seven class days.

Wheeler reported that before any travel in the fall or spring, the sports administrator has to submit the number of missed classes. Wheeler also noted that there are exceptions in Olympic qualifying years and there is a wrestler with a current exception that will compete in the World Games. There are academic management plans that the APEC Chair and faculty representative reviews. If there is anything inappropriate, the APEC Chair or faculty representative can deny the plan which has happened.

Only three teams per semester are reviewed due to the difficulty in obtaining the data that is needed and also the difficulty of gathering all of the necessary people involved. Reports are protected under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and are filed with the compliance officer.

Miller noted that the Athletic Board is to report to the Senate annually.

Raju requested information on the services the Irwin Academics Center provides. Ulen will send information to Miller on the services provided and the number of students served. Wheeler mentioned
that Irwin Academics Center provides academic counselors (in addition to the academic advisor), quiet spaces for studying, and meeting rooms for group studying.

B. SC.17.11: Extension of the Term for the Athletic Board Faculty Representative to the Big Ten Conference
This proposal will be included for consideration at the April 3 Senate meeting.

C. Biannual Update on Criminal Background Checks – Fall 2016
Burbules reminded SEC members that the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP) and the Senate Committee on Equal Opportunity and Inclusion (EQ) are both to receive the biannual update on criminal background checks. Burbules also noted that in a GUP meeting, Benmamoun relayed the administration and Board of Trustees (BOT) sentiment that given the risk of harm that could come to the university, background checks were worth the financial cost. Stone noted that the average background check costs between $25 and $35. Stone added that using the middle of the range of $30 per check, about $15,000 was spent last semester on background checks. The dollar amounts given at the BOT meeting was system-wide and not broken down by campus.

A concern was expressed about deterring candidates because of the required background check. Chancellor Jones and Vice Chancellor Romano both replied that background checks are common with most employers and have encountered others outside the university that are surprised background checks were not already mandatory.

In response to a question about further review once the background check information is received, Stone reminded those present of the current policy. For faculty, there is a committee of faculty to review the information and the recommendation is made to the Provost. The Provost determines how and to what degree to involve the potential hiring unit. For staff, the recommendations are made to the Associate Provost for Human Resources, Elyne Cole.

D. Formation of a Subcommittee to Nominate Faculty and Student members to Fill Annual Vacancies on the Committee on Committees
Miller requested volunteers to serve on the subcommittee. The following SEC members will serve as the subcommittee: B. Francis, Graber, Oberdeck, and Raju.

E. Setting of the April 3 Senate Agenda
The April 3, 2017 Senate agenda was approved as amended.

F. Setting of the April 17 Agenda for the 2017-18 Elections and Organizational Meeting
The April 17, 2017 Senate agenda was approved as distributed.

7. Announcements/Verbal Reports for Information
A. Please note the June 12 SEC meeting has been moved to May 22.
B. Please note the July 24 SEC meeting has been moved to July 17.
C. Burbules inquired about the composition of the SEC and why there are specific chairs, such as the Chair of the Senate Committee on Information Technology (IT), that are automatic members of the SEC. Miller noted that the committees that tend to have proposals on the Senate agenda hold the permanent seats. A short discussion followed.

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.*