A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:12 pm on Monday, September 11, 2017 in the Senate Conference Room, 232 English Building, with Chair Francis presiding.

1. **Introductions**
   Introductions were made.

2. **Approval of Minutes**
   The minutes from August 28, 2017 were approved as distributed.

3. **Chair’s Remarks**
   Chair Francis reported that she, Vice Chair O’Brien, and Clerk Roether met with the Office of University Audits to discuss the upcoming audit on governance practices. The auditors will be reviewing Senate governing documents, processes, and compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA). At the end of the audit, a report will be issued and they will also advise us on best practices.

4. **Chancellor’s Remarks**
   Chancellor Jones discussed President Trump’s announcement about the discontinuance of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) in the next 6 months. The University will continue to advocate for these men and women. There will be no change to current practices and the university will continue to protect students and faculty to the best of our ability. The University is unable to provide legal advice, but will try to connect students with those who can. Two lawyers who are UI alumni have volunteered their time to meet with any students who are concerned about the discontinuance of DACA.

   In response to a request for the creation of a website to keep students informed on DACA, Kaler responded that one is already being created and information will be posted as soon as it is available.

   Jones then discussed the Education Secretary’s statement on the possibility of rules changing how universities respond to Title IV, especially to sexual assault. Jones stated that the University will not back down from our commitment and educational efforts, and will continue to provide resources to victims. It is still unclear about what the Secretary has in mind, and the university will continue to monitor the situation. It does not send a good message if we back away from our commitment, so we will continue with current practice until we are told we cannot.

   The short list of candidates for Provost were announced in an email to the campus. Jones noted that he was pleased with the University’s ability to attract such great candidates in light of the budget issues. We have to convince at least one of these individuals to step up to this challenge. Jones is hopeful that an offer can be extended in about a month and will continue to engage the Senate and the University community in the process.
Jones introduced Rusty Barceló who is serving as Visiting Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Diversity. Barceló coordinated the recent external diversity review. She will be working with Associate Chancellor for Diversity Assata Zerai and other diversity committees to determine how to structure senior diversity leaders and how to financially make the greatest impact.

Jones plans to follow-up with one or two more individuals before announcing the interim Vice Chancellor for Research, but hopes to make an announcement by this Friday. This will be a challenge because the candidates already have a large portfolio.

Wynne Korr will step down as Dean of the School of Social Work to work on public engagement efforts. Illinois was designated as an engaged university by Carnegie, but this is not apparent with the current structure. Korr will be helping us think about our public engagement efforts differently.

Jones presented Gay Miller with a resolution of appreciation for her two years of service as the former SEC Chair.

5. Old Business
A. Proposed revisions to the Statutes, Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the Statutes (USC ST-79)
Burbules noted that after the three Senates approved ST-79 and it went forward to the President, he questioned why he was unable to also propose changes to the Statutes. The most current version of ST-79 now includes allowing the President to also initiate changes to the Statutes. Any proposed changes to the Statutes, no matter the initiator, will still go through the University Senates Conference (USC) and all three Senates. Burbules made a motion to send the revised version of ST-79 to the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP). The motion was seconded and the item was referred to the USSP.

Burbules added that ST-77, the large package of proposed amendments to the Statutes, will soon be sent back to the USC indicating which items will be sent forward to the Board of Trustees and which proposed revisions need to be revisited. Burbules will keep the SEC informed on the progress.

B. SC.18.03: Election of a University Senates Conference (USC) Member to Serve on the Senate Executive Committee (SEC)
This item will appear on the September 18 Senate agenda.

C. SC.18.04: Election of a Faculty Member to the Committee on Committees
This item will appear on the September 18 Senate agenda.

6. New Business
A. General Education Requirements Updated
Miller, Chair of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC), noted that proposal EP.17.74 is an item carried over from last academic year. Proposal EP.17.74 is a request to reconcile EP.89.09 and GB.91.02, which are documents that laid out general education requirements, and is also in response to the document that approved the addition of a US minorities culture course (EP.16.80). Proposal EP.17.74 would bring general education requirements in line with current practice. Miller noted that an FAQ document is being put together to accompany the proposal, including a table that shows the requirements that were approved in EP.89.09 versus the current practice. The table will show where policy and practice are the same and where they differ. Miller also noted that Craig Zilles, former Chair of the General Education Board, will be at the Senate meeting to answer questions.

Concern was expressed that with diminished resources, it might be difficult for some units to comply with the upcoming US minority requirement. Jones acknowledged the concern and agreed
that there are now fewer resources available. The Provost will need to be involved in the discussion regarding any resources for the new requirement.

Colleges have the ability to require additional courses, but they are not considered a general education requirement, just an additional requirement of the college. “Double dipping” (one course fulfilling two general education requirements) will still be allowed, but there are some stipulations.

Burbules expressed his opinion that the general education system needs an overhaul instead of the continued additions, extensions, and tweaks. He acknowledged that it would be difficult, but that there is a need to look at the bigger picture and create a new system. There is a wider discussion on campus about a general education requirement overhaul, but before that can happen, EP.17.74 needs to be approved.

B. Statement on DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)
Oberdeck, Chair of the Senate Committee on Equal Opportunity and Inclusion (EQ), introduced the draft Resolution on the Planned Termination of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Policy. The EQ committee wanted to build on the President and Chancellor’s statements on the issue. A short discussion followed with suggested amendments that Oberdeck will take back to the EQ committee.

C. Setting of the September 18, 2017 Senate Agenda
The September 18, 2017 Senate agenda was set as amended.

7. Announcements/Verbal Reports for Information
Gilmore, Chair of USSP, reported that USSP and AFT (Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure) met with Vice President Wilson to continue discussion on ST-72 (Revisions to the Statutes, Article X, Section 2 -- Academic Freedom). Wilson will be transmitting updated proposed language and Gilmore will continue to keep SEC informed on the issue.

8. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 pm.