Present: Chair Bettina Francis, Vice Chair Nancy O’Brien, Shawn Gilmore, Kim Graber, Sam LeRoy, William Maher, Gay Miller, Rahul Raju, Matthew Wheeler

Absent: Nicholas Burbules, Scott Morris, Bryan Parthum, Jeff Stein, Mark Steinberg

Guests: Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost John Wilkin, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs William Bernhard, Campus Faculty Association Representative Andy Bowman, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Danita Brown Young, Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs Robin Kaler, University Student Life Chair Mark Dressman, Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits Chair John Kindt, Director of Academic Human Resources Deborah Stone, General University Policy (GUP) member Joyce Tolliver

A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:10 pm on Monday, November 06, 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 October 9, 2017 were approved as distributed.

3. Chair’s Remarks
   Chair Francis reported that she and Vice-Chair O’Brien are continuing to meet with committee chairs to discuss committee chair duties. Francis and O’Brien will meet with chairs who are not SEC members prior to meeting with those chairs who are SEC members. Francis also mentioned that she planned to report on the recent Senate leaders meetings that she and O’Brien attended.

4. Chancellor’s Remarks
   Interim Provost Wilkin gave remarks in the absence of Chancellor Jones. Wilkin announced the Gies Family donation of $150 million to the College of Business. This is the largest gift the University of Illinois has ever received. Jones and Wilkin met with the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) to discuss the proposal that was submitted to seek the advice of the Senate on the renaming of the College of Business to the Gies College of Business.

   The Chancellor gave a state of the university address last week. Jones plans to give this address every fall. A video of the address is available on the Illinois homepage.

   The search for the new Provost continues. Jones plans to name a Provost by the end of the semester.

   The strategic planning is going well. The previous strategic plan is being built onto instead of starting from scratch. A task force is being formed to identify gaps and new opportunities. The focus is on building up from a smaller focus to broader campus-based opportunities. The current timeline is to have the strategic plan completed by next fall.

   Graduate Employees’ Organization (GEO). The administration will continue to meet with the GEO and federal mediator on contract negotiations. The administration and the GEO have reached an agreement on 12 of 19 items. A website has been created to provide more information on the negotiations: https://go.illinois.edu/geonegotiations.

   The State University Civil Service System (SUCSS) periodically reviews the exemption that is in place to allow academic professional positions. This is a needed and appropriate exemption. Human resource employees are working with other universities to protect this exemption.
Wilkin announced the formation of a free speech task force. The task force will address free speech rights and how to safely host speakers from outside the University.

The Chancellor plans to move forward with his Critical Conversations series holding the first conversation later this semester. The first conversation topic planned is on Native American imagery.

The floor was opened for questions and discussion.

Gilmore, chair of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP), noted that Article VIII, Section 3 of the Statutes outlines a procedure for renaming academic units that involve a vote by the Senate. Gilmore asked why the process outlined in the Statutes was not followed for the renaming of the College of Business as the Gies College of Business. Wilkin replied that in working with University Counsel on the acceptance of this gift, Counsel advised the Chancellor that only the advice of the Senate was needed. The executive committee of the College of Business has voted in favor of the renaming.

Maher gave his opinion that Counsel’s advice was a willful misinterpretation of the Statutes and this does not follow what has been done in the past. Gilmore added that the Institute for Genomic Biology was named for Carl Woese and the Advertising department was named for Charles Sandage. Both of which were proposals that were submitted to the Senate for approval through EPC.

In response to the question of why the renaming was announced before consulting with the Senate, Francis noted that the Chancellor contacted her as chair of SEC prior to making the announcement. Francis added that she should have advised the Chancellor to submit a proposal through EPC.

Miller stated that as soon as she became aware of the renaming she contacted the Chancellor and conveyed the importance of engaging the Senate and the need for a proposal to be submitted to the Senate through EPC. Miller agreed with Gilmore and Maher that the process outlined in Article VIII, Section 3 of the Statutes should be followed in the renaming of an academic unit.

Raju inquired about the composition of the free speech task force. Wilkin replied that he plans to consult with students on the membership of the task force. Wilkin will announce the membership of the task force once the composition is determined.

Raju expressed his opinion that selecting a mascot should be a priority for the University. Raju mentioned the work of the student groups over the past two years and the discourse over the former symbol. LeRoy added that he hoped the decision to select or not select a mascot is data-driven.

Graber praised the “With Illinois” kick-off event that was held Friday night at the State Farm Center. Graber said that the event included some really great speakers and was amazing.

5. **New Business**

A. **Subcommittee to Nominate Students for Committee on Committees Vacancy**
   SEC Student members LeRoy, Raju, and faculty member Graber will garner student nominations to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of David Hanley. Hanley’s resignation is effective at the termination of the fall semester.

B. **EP.18.10: Proposal to Establish the Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Department and the Clinical Sciences Department for the Carle Illinois College of Medicine**
   Miller reported that the sponsor has withdrawn this proposal. The sponsor plans to submit a new proposal soon.

C. **Setting of the November 13, 2017 Senate Agenda**
   The November 13 Senate agenda was set as amended.
6. Announcements/Verbal Reports for Information

A. Report on Senate Leaders Meetings
   Francis reported that she attended the BTAA (Big Ten Academic Alliance) Faculty Governance Leadership Conference hosted by Penn State. Of the 14 members of the BTAA, 12 were present at the meeting. It was interesting to see the differences in organization and different degrees of interaction between the faculty, administration, and the board of trustees at these large public institutions.

   Penn State has 39 members on their Board of Trustees, one of whom is a faculty member. Penn State is not a state university, but they are a state-affiliated university and have only a small portion of the state budget. Purdue has very little contact with their Board of Trustees. Purdue recently purchased Kaplan online university. Faculty members are vehemently opposed to the purchasing of Kaplan. Purdue is working on a resolution opposing the purchase of Kaplan. Some of the BTAA universities are supporting the resolution.

   Free speech on campus was another topic that was discussed. Use of rental space cannot be declined based on the content of the speech.

   O’Brien and Francis both attended the Council of Illinois Senates (CIUS) meeting. The SUCSS organization, mentioned earlier by Wilkin, is again trying to transfer employees from academic professional positions that are exempted from the SUCSS system into civil service classifications. Many attendees were very perturbed over the reclassification effort.

   Francis also noted that a bill under consideration in the Illinois House and the Senate would give greater IBHE (Illinois Board of Higher Education) governance over admissions. This could mean a uniform admissions policy across all state universities.

B. Faculty Policy Guide
   GUP member Tolliver requested that the Faculty Policy Guide be filed as a report with the Senate and publicized in Eweek and via the Senate listserv. Clerk Roether will work with GUP Chair Burbules to submit an announcement about the Guide to Eweek and send a message to the listserv that includes a link to the Guide. The Office of the Provost has created a link from the Office of the Provost website to the Guide.

C. Board of Trustees Senate Observer
   There were no volunteers to serve as the Urbana Senate Observer at the November 16, 2017 Board of Trustees meeting.

D. Updated on ST-72 – Revisions to the Statutes on Academic Freedom
   Gilmore, Chair of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP), reported that USSP hopes to receive feedback from the Vice President’s Office after the fall break.

7. Adjournment
   The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Jenny Roether
Clerk of the Senate