UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
Senate Executive Committee
Minutes
Monday, January 29, 2018

Present: Chair Bettina Francis, Nicholas Burbules, Shawn Gilmore, Kim Graber, William Maher, Gay Miller, Bryan Parthum, Rahul Raju, Mark Steinberg, Matthew Wheeler

Absent: Vice Chair Nancy O’Brien, Sam LeRoy, Scott Morris, Jeff Stein

Guests: Chancellor Robert Jones, William Bernhard (Vice Provost for Academic Affairs), Andrew Bowman (Campus Faculty Association Representative), Danita Brown Young (Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs), Andreas Cangellaris (Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost), Wojciech Chodzko-Zajko (Dean, Graduate College), Chris Harris (Senior Director of Strategic Communications), Amy Hovious (Council of Academic Professionals), Robin Kaler (Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs), John Kindt (Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits Chair), Kevin Pitts (Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education), Bruce Rosenstock (Professor, Religion), Raneem Shamseldin (Student Body President)

Media: News-Gazette – Julie Wurth

A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:10 pm on Monday, January 29, 2018 in the Senate Conference Room, 232 English Building, with Chair Francis presiding.

1. Introductions
   Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes
   The minutes from December 4, 2017 were approved as amended.

3. Chair’s Remarks
   Chair Francis noted that the SEC agenda will be suspended at 4:15 pm for a presentation on undergraduate admissions. Francis also mentioned that there is a plan to expand the existing solar farm and would like to invite iSEE (Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment) Affiliate Scott Willenbrock to present information about the solar expansion plan at an upcoming Senate meeting. SEC members agreed that a presentation about the solar far expansion would be good to have at an upcoming Senate meeting.

4. Chancellor’s Remarks
   Chancellor Jones welcomed Cangellaris as the first permanent Provost in 29 months, and noted that this is a long time to go without permanent leadership, but that we were blessed by two deeply engaged interims – Wilkin and Feser. Cangellaris was appointed as Provost beginning January 16. Jones was thankful that the search process surfaced someone with the deep knowledge of the University. Jones also thanked SEC for their role in shaping the search committee and this process.
   Jones made a trip to Washington DC to meet with some distinguished alumni. They discussed the strategic planning initiative and the most recent legislative issues. Jones feels it is important to stay in touch with alumni, especially in Washington DC, to assist with legislative issues.
   The tax bill in its original form would have done significant harm to the University and its graduate students. The University will continue to advocate for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and immigration. We take these issues seriously and plan to further engage our legislators.
   Jones met with Senator Durbin. This was the first meeting Durbin has taken in quite some time. Jones said the conversation was productive. Jones thanked Durbin for his support of DACA and for supporting the University in our research efforts.
Jones reported on the day-long planning retreat. The strategic planning process is critically important. The things we do now and the decisions we make will play a defining role for the next 5 years, 10 years, and in decades to come. This University really does plan and takes the process seriously. Some very important initiatives like the Carle Illinois College of Medicine have come from strategic planning. These are transformative big ideas. Over 100 campus leaders were invited to the planning retreat and it was an amazing day. Now we have the challenge of continuing to shape this plan. Once the plan is vetted and approved, then funding will need to be secured.

The Vice Chancellor for Diversity position notice will be posted soon. There has been a very thoughtful process in moving forward with the creation of this position. A search committee is being developed and a search firm will be identified. This will be a national search.

The GEO (Graduate Employees Organization) has served an intent to strike notice. Another meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to continue negotiations. The administration is committed to the negotiations and have 12 of the 19 points addressed. The GEO is important and plays a significant role in the important work this university does.

The Chancellor’s Critical Conversations have taken much longer to organize than anticipated. One conversation will focus on free speech. The date and participants have been identified, but will not release the information until everything is confirmed. The second conversation is on Native American imagery. There has been some progress in regards to engaging participants, but again, it is taking more time than expected to coordinate schedules.

The Chancellor received a letter this morning from Kathryn Oberdeck, Chair of the Senate Committee on Equal Opportunity and Inclusion (EQ). The Chancellor plans to meet with the committee to address the concerns that they have. The most critical step at this point is to have a conversation, reconcile and move beyond the issue.

The Illinois Student Government (ISG) asked that all Chief Illiniwek images be removed from all University buildings. The University does not allow for official use of the Chief image. The Administration is in the process of reaching out to departments to make it very clear how important it is that displaying Chief images makes many members of this University uncomfortable, and also to be very clear on what is and is not allowed in public spaces. People need to realize that even if we can express ourselves, it still might be offensive to others.

Jones also mentioned the recent incident at State Farm Center. Rosenstein admitted to filming without consent in a public restroom. The states attorney did not press charges. Jones emphasized that this behavior as reported is against our code of conduct. Campus human resources is conducting an investigation. There is no set time for the investigation, which is largely dependent on the availability of witnesses. Putting Rosenstein on paid leave is not a disciplinary action. It gives HR time to review the allegations while protecting our students. Jones said he will not comment publicly on the investigation as it is a personnel matter.

Raju expressed his concern that the Administration and the GEO seem to be stuck at the 12 out of 19 points. Cangellaris stated that negotiations are continuing even with the intent to strike that has been filed. Cangellaris was optimistic that the negotiation meeting tomorrow would be fruitful.

Raju was also appreciative of the Administration supporting the ISG resolution on removing Chief images from shared University spaces and asked to what extent Jones thinks the Critical Conversations are a first step in the conversation on Native American imagery. Jones felt the conversations surrounding the Chief should have occurred when the Chief was retired. The University must find a way to move forward as a community. The path forward has to start with a conversation. Both sides feel misunderstood and disrespected. We need to stop talking past each other and have a conversation. We cannot dwell in this place forever.
Burbules noted that the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP) shared a draft statement, on what donors can and cannot expect, with Jones. Jones has slightly modified the statement. Jones added that he wants to be very clear that we are stewards of this university and would never take a donation from a donor who would want to have part in decisions on hiring or what is faculty purview. The statement will be part of the Campus Administrative Manual (CAM). The statement also makes it clear that donors will not have a hand in faculty hiring, promotions, or degree granting.

Jones noted that they are looking at some of the other policy issues that relate to the State Farm Center and other facilities. This conversation started months ago with Josh Whitman, Athletic Director. This is a broader conversation about safety and security.

Steinberg indicated that taking a faculty member out of regular teaching duties is considered disciplinary and asked how this is not disciplinary action. Jones replied that this is not disciplinary action and that it is for the protection of students and staff. The purpose of the paid leave is to give HR time to conduct the investigation. The state’s attorney not filing charges does not have to do with ethical values and principles. Steinberg cautioned Jones to be careful of existing policies.

Rosenstock disagreed, saying that paid leave is still disciplinary, and cited the Illinois Administrative Code. Jones did not agree with Rosenstock’s perspective.

Undergraduate Admissions Presentation
Kevin Pitts, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education gave an update on undergraduate admissions.* Pitts discussed campus level and college level admissions processes.

- The size of the freshman class has gone up and down, but is relatively stable overall.
- Illinois is third in the Big Ten in serving our residents (Illinois residents attending the University of Illinois).
- There has been a national trend in the decline of yield of resident students. Students are applying to more and more schools, but can only choose one to attend. A recent survey revealed that the top two reasons students decline UIUC is lack of scholarships and the overall cost. However, Illinois is still competitive.
- Diversity – Illinois is third in percentage, but number one for numbers. About 20% of the freshmen class are from underrepresented minorities.
- The cost of attendance remains our biggest issue. We have put a lot of money into aid. Room and board has gone up and so has our aid.
- The population off Illinois comprises approximately 30% underrepresented minorities: about 15% Black and 15% Hispanic.
- Student debt average is below national average. At UIUC, the average student debt is $25k and family debt averages $40k. Not all students and families both incur debt.
- We will be distributing $86 million of institutional aid, with another $5 million from the Chancellor. This is really helping diversity of our campus.
- We have close to 40k applications each year: an enormous growth of 46% in 7 years. There has also been an increase in the number of students admitted, but we are still more selective than we were several years ago.
- Colleges supplement central recruiting efforts. Admissions works closely with the Colleges. There is some out of state recruiting and no international recruiting.
- Fourth year in a row that we have frozen tuition rates. We are on our way back to middle of the Big Ten.

Pitts responded to questions. Most international applications come from China, India, and South Korea, and their destinations are Engineering, LAS, and Business (our biggest colleges), but we have international students going into all the colleges. We have probably reached a peak from China and are probably going to see a downturn. Brazil numbers are growing.
5. **New Business**
   
   A. **SP. 12.06: Revisions to the Constitution and the Bylaws Regarding Conduct of Senate Meetings and Formulation of Meeting Agendas**

   Gilmore explained that the portion of this proposal to reduce quorum from 100 to 75 as outlined in the Constitution was approved by the Senate, but never introduced at a Board of Trustees meeting. The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) would like a response to the proposal. Burbules suggested that a proposal to withdraw the quorum portion of SP.12.06 could be presented to the full Senate. Gilmore will discuss this more with USSP.

   B. **Seventh Senate Review Implementation Committee Report**

   Francis noted that this Senate Review has been ongoing for several years. Francis asked SEC members if the report should go forward to the Senate or if it would be prudent to wait for the report from the Office of University Audits on the current governance audit. After a short discussion, it was decided that Gilmore will take the report to the USSP for further review of actionable items.

   C. **Authority of the Senate and the Colleges: Statutes, Article II and Article III**

   Gilmore noted that the topic of the difference in authority between the Senate and the Colleges came up on the floor at a recent Senate meeting. There could be a potential conflict between the language in Article II and Article III of the Statutes. Is the Senate overstepping or are colleges hardening on their autonomy? Is it worth holding a conversation on this topic at a full Senate meeting? Burbules suggested this topic be handled first by a task force that includes faculty and administrators, but the GUP committee would also be willing to discuss the topic.

   There is a perception that the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) slows down the approval process of curriculum changes that come before the committee. The Council of Deans (COD) has also expressed concerns about the interpretation of authority between the colleges and the Senate. Whether the issue is perceived or actual, it is a problem that proposal sponsors are looking for an alternative route outside the normal EPC processes.

   D. **Setting of the February 5, 2018 Senate Agenda**

   The February 5 Senate agenda was set as amended.

6. **Announcements/Verbal Reports for Information**

   A. **Faculty Advisory Committee of the IBHE Report**

   Postponed until the next SEC meeting.

7. **Adjournment**

   The meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm.