

Minutes
Urbana-Champaign Senate Meeting
November 18, 2013

A regular meeting of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate was called to order at 3:11 pm at the Illini Union in Illini Room A with Chancellor Phyllis Wise presiding and Professor Emeritus H. George Friedman, Jr. as Parliamentarian.

Approval of Minutes

11/18/13-01 The minutes from October 21, 2013 were approved as written.

Senate Executive Committee Report

Roy Campbell (ENGR), faculty senator and Chair of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), requested floor privileges on behalf of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) Associate Dean Karen Carney to speak to all LAS Educational Policy proposals.

11/18/13-02 Floor privileges were granted as requested without objection.

Campbell reported that at the most recent SEC meeting Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Innovation Charles Tucker presented an interim report from the MOOC (massive open online course) Strategy Advisory Committee (MSAC). MSAC is comprised of 23 members from around the campus and is co-chaired by Vice Provost Charles Tucker and Associate Dean for Academic Programs, Laurie Kramer. The MSAC report contains items related to Illinois's partnership with Coursera, policy issues, and other potential uses for MOOCs. MSAC recommends continuing the partnership with Coursera, and also to explore other software platforms or partnerships for delivering MOOCs. A request for proposals will be issued soon for faculty that would like to develop a Coursera MOOC. These proposals will be reviewed by a campus level committee. Other recommendations include expanding our research efforts using our MOOC data and increasing staff capacity for developing MOOC and online course materials. In the policy area, MSAC recommends continuing the practice of not offering credit for Coursera MOOCs, but is open to possibly offering credit to MOOC like experiences in the future that meet campus criteria for course credit. Faculty member created course materials are considered intellectual property. The topic of faculty compensation for teaching Coursera courses is still under discussion by the committee. MSAC suggests that there are many opportunities between Coursera MOOCs and traditional online courses and are looking to the campus to innovate. The final MSAC report should be released soon.

Faculty senators Harry Hilton (ENGR) and Joyce Tolliver (LAS) and student senator Calvin Lear (GRAD) served as tellers for the meeting.

Chancellor's Remarks

Chancellor Phyllis Wise noted that the MSAC report had been presented to Provost Ilesanmi Adesida and the Chancellor. Chancellor Wise was impressed with the amount of work that the committee has put into the report and the very careful consideration of what the place MOOCs is in the educational experience of our students. Wise serves on the Educational Advisory group for Coursera and has been involved in a number of decision making processes.

The Board of Trustees meeting on November 14, 2013 at UIS included discussion on the reconfiguration of the College of Medicine. The position of Vice President for Health Affairs was evaluated and was proposed to change the position title to a Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and would report directly to the Chancellor of the Chicago campus. All of the hospital and all of the health sciences deans would report to the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs. This change does not have a direct impact on the Urbana-Champaign campus at this time.

The College of ACES (Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences) has received a \$25 million federal grant from USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development) to increase Africa's food supply through soybean research. The research will focus on the optimal type of breeding on soybeans that will be grown in these African countries.

Wise will join five or six other presidents and chancellors in Washington to talk individually with a group of senators about the impact of the sequester and what we hope can be done to preserve the research at the research intensive universities.

Questions/Discussion

Nelson (LAS) asked when the MOOC report would be delivered. Gay Miller, Chair of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) noted that during an EPC meeting Vice Provost Tucker indicated that the report would be available after the report is presented to the Council of Deans meeting. If the presentation is completed prior to the December Senate meeting, the report could possibly be on the December Senate agenda.

Consent Agenda

Hearing no objections, the following proposals were approved by unanimous consent.

- 11/18/13-03 EP.14.08* Proposal from the College of Business Department of Accountancy and the Graduate College to Increase the Credit Requirement Needed to Earn the MS in Taxation
- 11/18/13-04 EP.14.09* Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) and the Graduate College to Add the Existing Graduate Concentration in Medieval Studies to the PhD in East Asian Languages and Cultures
- 11/18/13-05 EP.14.11* Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) and the Graduate College to Revise the Language Requirement in the Graduate Concentration in Medieval Studies
- 11/18/13-06 EP.14.13* Proposal from the College of Engineering to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering
- 11/18/13-07 EP.14.14* Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to Revise the Undergraduate Minor in Portuguese
- 11/18/13-08 EP.14.15* Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to Establish an Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Minor in Medieval Studies
- 11/18/13-09 EP.14.16* Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to Revise the Major in the Sciences and Letters Curriculum: BALAS in Interdisciplinary Studies, Medieval Studies Concentration

Proposals (enclosed)

- 11/18/13-10 CC.14.06* Nominations for Membership on Standing Committees of the Senate
On behalf of the Senate Committee on Committees, Chair Prasanta Kalita moved approval of the nominee presented on CC.14.06. There were no floor nominations and nominations were declared closed.
- 11/18/13-11 By voice, the slate of candidates listed on CC.14.06 was approved.
- 11/18/13-12 SP.14.06* Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the *Statutes* (Second Reading)
On behalf of University Statues and Senate Procedures (USSP), committee member Anna-Maria Marshall reviewed the substance of SP.14.06. This was presented for first reading in October. The text of the proposal has not changed since the first reading.

- 11/18/13-13 By voice vote, the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8 authorizing the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the *Statutes* was approved.
- 11/18/13-14 RS.14.01* Resolution on Governance Procedures for Changes in Academic Organization
- Faculty Senator Kathryn Oberdeck (LAS) presented the resolution. The *University Statutes* and the *Senate Standing Rules* have directives about how to handle the way the Senate and the Senate Committee on Educational Policy are involved in the final process of reviewing and sending on for approval in changes to unit organization. According to Oberdeck, in the last couple of years it seemed that choices for some units were narrowed down before the discussion was opened. According to the *Statutes* and *Senate Standing Rules*, the Senate does not seem to be involved until the end of the process when decisions have already been made. This resolution is to have some provision in the Senate governing documents that would allow Senate involvement earlier in the process of reorganization of units. The resolution asks for the Senate to review these processes and suggests that the Senate be apprised of developing issues so that the Senate can be involved from the beginning.
- 11/18/13-15 Faculty Senator Kathryn Oberdeck moved approval of RS.14.0 and the motion was seconded. Nelson (LAS) and EPC Chair Miller voiced their support of the resolution.
- 11/18/13-16 By voice vote, the Resolution on Governance Procedures for Changes in Academic Organization was approved.

Current Benefits Issues

John Kindt, Chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits reminded those present that if an individual employee contacts a representative regarding an issue, University resources cannot be used in support of any political activities and any political activities must not interfere with employment obligations to the University.

Kindt pointed out that opt out provisions for the Medicare Advantage Plans are confusing. If a person does not respond or never receives notice to be aware that a decision is required, it will be assumed that the person is opting out. There is no appeal and this action is irrevocable. Kindt suggested obtaining professional advice before selecting to opt out of Medicare.

Kindt noted that there is speculation of a vote on a pension bill by Illinois General Assembly members on December 3, 2013. Kindt added that www.suaa.org, www.surs.org, and <https://nessie.uihr.uillinois.edu> are good resources for benefits information.

Reports

- 11/18/13-17 HE.14.02* FAC/IBHE Report – October 18, 2013
- 11/18/13-18 SUR.14.01* SURSMAC Report – October 8, 2013

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Jenny Roether, Senate Clerk

*Filed with the Senate Clerk and incorporated by reference in these minutes.