

Minutes
Urbana-Champaign Senate Meeting
September 22, 2014

A regular meeting of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate was called to order at 3:12 pm in the Illini Union Ballroom with Chancellor Phyllis Wise presiding and Professor Emeritus H. George Friedman, Jr. as Parliamentarian.

Approval of Minutes

09/22/14-01 The minutes from April 21, 2014 and May 5, 2014 were approved as written.

Senate Executive Committee Report

Roy Campbell (ENGR), faculty senator and Chair of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) welcomed all present. Chair Campbell requested those who wish to speak do so directly into the microphone stating name and college/department.

09/22/14-02 Chair Campbell made a motion to extend floor privileges to the following individuals:

Students Tal Charnes and Stephanie Skora to speak during "Questions/Discussion".

Stephanie Beever, Carle Foundation Administrative Team; Dr. Joseph Barkmeier, Carle; James Leonard, MD, CEO, Carle to speak to EP.15.02, Proposal to Create of a College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Partnership with Carle Health System – Preliminary Endorsement.

Melissa McKillip, IGB Director of Development and Outreach to speak to EP.15.06, Rename the Institute for Genomic Biology as the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology.

Student Ryan Brown to speak to RS.15.03 Senate Resolution on the SEC Resolution on Ad Hoc Committee Formation.

Students Ahmad Hamdan, Christine Peralta, Efadul Huq, Raha Behnam, Estibalitz Ezkerra, Eman Ghanayem, and Professor Ted Underwood to speak to SC.15.03 BOT Observer Report – September 11, 2014.

09/22/14-03 Floor privileges were approved without objection.

Tellers for the meeting were faculty senators Harry Hilton (ENGR), John Prussing (ENGR), and student senator Sarah Hochman (ACES).

Chair Campbell read the following remarks.

I could have hoped for a more collegial and welcoming start to this year. The debate over the Professor Salaita issue has divided the campus and led to severe and un-collegial behavior. I call for faculty reconciliation in this difficult discussion. There must be respect on all sides for differing opinions and for the difficult tasks we ask our administrators to do. We must recognize that our statutes say that within the limits fixed by the Illinois constitution and laws, the Board of Trustees exercises final authority over the University. We must also recognize the power of the courts of law to resolve complex problems.

We must respect that, across our campus, there is a wide range of strongly held views about the Salaita case. Rather than letting our differences divide us and damage the Illinois community, we must build on our differences, and seek ways to bring the community back together to continue the business of the University and its pursuit of excellence with renewed purpose and spirit of collegiality.

I am dismayed at the current level of divisiveness that can arise in our community. Aggressive verbal attacks on either side are deplorable. Threats against individuals and their families are not to be tolerated. We need to stand up against categorical statements that try to silence debate, rule out intelligent discussion of issues, or force individuals into positions they do not wish to hold.

Speaking of statements that tend to rule out discussion...

In US higher education circles, a vote of no confidence is a specific action that affirms, because of corruption, incompetence, or mismanagement an administrator is deemed no longer to be able to serve in their post effectively. It is a call for them to resign or be fired.

While this may be the intention of some faculty voting for these motions, the wording of many of departmental resolutions suggests that the intended message is something else: a vehement disagreement with the Chancellor over her decision on the Professor Steven Salaita hiring. That is a legitimate protest, but it is not a vote of no-confidence. I believe that many faculty who are voting are expressing their strong disagreement and are wishing to convince the administrations to change course. It is not clear to me that their intention is to force the resignation of the chancellor.

There needs to be a clear distinction made between a resolution protesting a specific decision and a vote of no confidence which is quite a different thing and understood as such everywhere in the country where people see the action reported in the news media.

When a vote of no confidence is taken, OMA (Open Meetings Act) regulations need to be considered. The inconsistent wording, lack of public debate, and the refusal to release vote totals make this a highly irregular and misleading way to address such a crucial campus issue.

The Senate has established procedures and channels for looking at problems involving academic freedom and CAFT, our Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, is one such body that is looking at the issue of academic freedom and tenure and Professor Stephen Salaita. The Senate Executive committee found that there is a need to examine the procedures and mechanisms surrounding a faculty hire that might involve a late affirmation or revision of the hiring decision. No one is prejudging what that Task Force might conclude; one possible, legitimate outcome is that existing procedures are adequate and just need to be followed more consistently. I am concerned that people seem to have the misimpression that the Task Force is looking for ways to enable and encourage such decisions in the future, when exactly the opposite is the case. I think it is safe to say that on all sides of this dispute no one wants to find our campus in this situation ever again. Please let these committees perform the tasks the Senate has required of them.

Now I would like to proceed with our meeting because we have many important items to discuss.

09/22/14-04 Chair Campbell continued by making a motion to carry over any unfinished business at 5:15 pm to the next regular meeting of the Senate on October 20, 2014. The motion was seconded and discussion followed.

- 09/22/14-05 Faculty senator Diaz (LAS) made a motion to amend that any unfinished business at 5:15 pm carry forward to the following Monday at 3:10 pm in accordance with *Standing Rule 1*. The motion to amend was seconded and defeated by voice.
- 09/22/14-06 By voice, the original motion to carry any unfinished business at 5:15 pm forward to the October 20, 2014 agenda was approved.

Chancellor's Remarks

Chancellor Phyllis Wise feels honored to be the Chancellor at Illinois. This is a truly amazing place. Great scholarship and teaching excellence is clear in every corner. The mission of being the preeminent public research university with a land grant mission and global impact has a real possibility of being fulfilled.

Wise addressed the hiring recommendation of Stephen Salaita that did not go forward to the Board of Trustees (BOT) for approval. Over the course of the summer, Professor Salaita made a great number of comments on social media. Many people found these statements hateful and inconsistent with the kind of learning environment that fosters open discussion. The vitriolic nature of some of the comments gave Wise and President Easter misgivings about whether the hiring of Dr. Salaita would be in the best interest of this institution. Wise and Easter felt they needed to share this information and their misgivings to the BOT. Wise conveyed to the BOT that she could not recommend the BOT approve Salaita's appointment to the faculty. Wise and Easter felt it was very unlikely that the BOT would approve the appointment of Salaita.

Because of the timing involved, Wise felt she was responsible to contact Salaita as soon as possible to inform him that he was no longer being recommend for a position on the faculty at Illinois. In hindsight, I would have taken more time to consult with the Provost, who would have consulted with the dean and director of the program involved.

Wise has met with many faculty and students over the past couple of weeks, and plans to continue meeting with groups. There seems to be a broad spectrum of views on this decision and the topics of academic freedom and freedom of speech. This has become a national topic of conversation.

The hiring processes needs to be improved and strengthened so that approval from the BOT happens much more quickly and as soon as possible after the candidate has responded to an offer. And also well before the candidate decides to move here.

Academic freedom is the bedrock to this institution and to all of higher education. Academic freedom is neither simple nor universally understood. We do not believe in censoring and never will. We believe in fostering different backgrounds and will not tolerate discrimination.

Questions/Discussion

- 09/22/14-07 Chair Campbell made a motion to move into a committee of the whole until 4:20 pm to discuss a broad range of topics in the Chancellor's remarks. Chair Campbell will preside over the committee of the whole, comments will be limited to two minutes per person, and the privilege of the floor will be extended to all attendees. The motion was seconded and approved by voice.

The Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus moved into a committee of the whole at 3:40 pm. Campbell noted that individuals may not yield their speaking time to another individual. Many faculty and students expressed their opinions in support of the Chancellor, their votes of no confidence in the Chancellor, and others that supported the Chancellor yet disagreed with her decision not to forward the recommendation to hire Salaita to the BOT.

- 09/22/14-08 A student senator made a motion to extend the committee of the whole. A faculty senator amended the motion to ensure those standing at the microphones were allowed to speak.
- 09/22/14-09 The motion to amend and include those standing at the microphones was seconded and approved by voice.
- 09/22/14-10 The motion to extend the committee of the whole was seconded and approved as amended by voice.
- The remaining faculty and students standing at the microphone voiced their opinions regarding the hiring decision related to Dr. Salaita.
- 09/22/14-11 Faculty senator Graber (AHS) moved that the committee of the whole rise and report. The motion was seconded.
- 09/22/14-12 Hearing no objections, the committee of the whole completed its consideration of the matter. Wise thanked everyone who made comments.

Consent Agenda

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

- 09/22/14-13 EP.15.01* Proposal from the Senate Committee on Educational Policy to revise the 2014-2015 Academic Calendar
- 09/22/14-14 EP.15.03* Proposal from the College of Engineering and the Graduate College to establish an MENG in Mechanical Engineering
- 09/22/14-15 EP.15.04* Proposal from the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish a Professional Science Master's concentration in the MS in Geography
- 09/22/14-16 EP.15.05* Proposal from the College of Engineering to establish an undergraduate minor in Computational Science and Engineering
- 09/22/14-17 EP.15.07* Academic Calendar 2019-2020
- 09/22/14-18 EP.15.08* Academic Calendar 2020-2021
- 09/22/14-19 EP.15.09* Academic Calendar 2021-2022
- 09/22/14-20 EP.15.10* Academic Calendar 2022-2023
- 09/22/14-21 EP.15.11* Academic Calendar 2023-2024
- 09/22/14-22 EP.15.13* Establish a Formal Winter Session in the 2014- 2015 Academic Calendar

Proposals (enclosed)

- 09/22/14-23 EP.15.02* Proposal to Create of a College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Partnership with Carle Health System – Preliminary Endorsement
- 09/22/14-24 On behalf of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC), Chair Miller made a motion to approve EP.15.02. Discussion followed.

Provost Adesida came forward to give his support for the proposed College of Medicine. Adesida added that the BOT supports continuing the proposal process including the development of a business plan. Adesida responded to a question regarding funding that he was confident that the pledge that no new state funds would be requested and no reallocation of funds will occur. Several more comments were made in support of the proposal being developed further and in support of future discussions on those developments.

- 09/22/14-25 Faculty senator Graber (AHS) moved to close debate. The motion was seconded and approved by voice.
- 09/22/14-26 By voice vote, the motion to approve proposal EP.15.02 passed.
- 09/22/14-27 EP.15.06*Rename the Institute for Genomic Biology as the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology
- 09/22/14-28 On behalf of EPC, Chair Miller moved approval proposal EP.15.06.
Miller then invited the Director of the Institute for Genomic Biology (IGB), Gene Robinson, to speak about proposal EP.15.05. Robinson noted that IGB has made transformative discoveries and has very large research initiatives. IGB wants to celebrate the past by renaming IGB as the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology. Carl R. Woese made the discovery that there is a third domain in life. This discovery took place at Illinois. Woese's work set the stage for meta-genomics. Proposal EP.15.06 has support from all key stakeholders.
- 09/22/14-29 By voice vote, the motion to approve EP.15.06 passed.
- 09/22/14-30 A motion was made to suspend the rule of 5:15 pm adjournment. The motion was seconded, and failed by voice.
- 09/22/14-31 CC.15.03* Nominations for Membership on Standing Committees of the Senate
- 09/22/14-32 On behalf of the Senate Committee on Committees, Chair Kalita moved approval of the slate of nominees on proposal CC.15.03.
Robert Warrior (LAS) was nominated from the floor to fill the faculty vacancy on the Senate Committee on Equal Opportunity and Inclusion. Warrior's signed statement of willingness to serve* if elected was submitted.

Adjournment

In accordance with *Standing Rule 1*, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

All unfinished business will carry forward to the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting on October 20, 2014.

Jenny Roether, Senate Clerk

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