

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**

December 11, 2017

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the University of Illinois Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus was called to order at 3:10 pm in the Illini Union Ballroom with Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost John Wilkin presiding and Professor Emeritus H. George Friedman, Jr. serving as Parliamentarian.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

12/11/17-01 The minutes from November 13, 2017, were approved as distributed.

**SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Bettina Francis (LAS), a faculty senator and Chair of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), noted that Chair of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees, Matthew Wheeler, must leave the meeting early today. Chair Francis asked for a motion to move the honorary degree proposal up on the agenda to the first item under "Proposals". The motion was made, seconded, and approved by a show of hands.

On behalf of John Kindt, Chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits, Chair Francis reported that all employees should be sure to have accurate address information in NESSIE (Net-driven Employee Self-Service and Information Environment) for issuing of W2s. Francis also announced that Delta Dental is sending out reimbursement and interest checks, and also noted that interest checks are taxable.

Francis noted that as Chair of SEC, she is a member of several different committees on campus. One of the meetings she attends is the public safety committee meeting. The Champaign and Urbana police and fire departments are participate in these meetings. Another committee the SEC Chair is invited to is the Sustainability Council that meets annually. The most recent meeting focused on the proposal to enlarge the solar farm. Francis added that she plans to invite Scott Willenbrock from the Sustainability Council to a Senate meeting in the spring.

This is the last Senate meeting of the semester and Interim Provost Wilkin's last meeting as the presiding officer. Francis thanked him for chairing these meetings and his participation shared governance. A round of applause followed.

**CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS**

Interim Provost Wilkin gave remarks in the absence of Chancellor Jones. Thank the Senate for advice on Gies naming. BOT passed unanimously.

The end of the semester can be busy and students are coming under a lot of stress. Campus has a number of resources dedicated to helping our students get the support they need. The Office of the Dean of Students put together a very good and comprehensive directory of these resources. It also provides some guidance on common behaviors that might indicate a student is in need of assistance. The publication is available at the table by the door.

The House and Senate have both passed different tax bills. The House bill would significantly increase the tax burden for graduate student workers by counting their tuition waivers as taxable income. It would eliminate the deductibility of student loan interest and it would tax the benefit of employer provided education assistance. The Senate bill did not include these items. the Senate and House bills must be reconciled and Congress must approve the final version before it's sent to the president for final approval. The implications of the House bill would have an overwhelmingly negative impact to the university community and in particular to graduate students.

The University of Illinois System Offices and the Office of Governmental Relations are has been spearheading lobbying efforts on tax reform. They have carefully outlined how the House legislation would make higher education less affordable and undermine the University's mission. The University is actively exploring how to respond if the problematic provisions end up in the final bill.

The University is continuing GEO (Graduate Employees' Organization) negotiations. Bargaining session set for tomorrow. Agreement has been reached on 12 of the 19 provisions. The University is committed to transparent and good faith negotiations.

A local bus company's recent racist and bigoted email was a completely reprehensible attack on members of our Chinese and Asian community. The messages have drawn universal condemnation. We are angry and we stand in support of all of our students, faculty, and staff. We are examining our policies around restricting access and use of streets that are within university jurisdiction.

We have entered into the strategic planning process to update the 2013-16 plan. The overarching goals will remain with new initiatives and strategies to set our course over the next five years. The task force has also been asked to reach out across campus to gather feedback from a wide range of people. A website has been created to keep everyone informed on the strategic planning process. <https://strategicplan.illinois.edu>

To follow up on some earlier conversations on free speech and campus speakers, Wilkin noted that the campus speech taskforce committee members have been appointed. The group has been charged with providing guidance related to speech on campus, around some broad issues related to invited speakers, and how we manage those processes. Kevin Hamilton, Professor in Art and Design is chairing the task force.

Wilkin stated that he has a deep appreciation of shared governance and regrets that he only had a limited time to engage with the Senate. Wilkin was appreciative of the collaboration with the Senate.

#### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION**

Faculty senator Gilmore (LAS) asked how the guiding principles massmail sent out by President Killeen interrelates with the speech task force Wilkin created? Wilkin replied that the task force will help shape procedures. we are committed to free speech and we need to know what we are going to do as speakers come to campus and how to handle the procedural aspects.

In response to an inquiry about the Chancellor's Critical Conversation series, Wilkin noted that the series has been postponed and the date will be announced once speakers have been confirmed.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 12/11/17-02 EP.18.11\* Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, from the College of Engineering
- 12/11/17-03 EP.18.23\* Proposal to Revise the Undergraduate Minor in Political Science, College of LAS
- 12/11/17-04 EP.18.24\* Proposal to Revise the Requirements for and add Concentrations to the BALAS in Political Science, College of LAS
- 12/11/17-05 EP.18.25\* Proposal to Revise the Undergraduate Minor in Latina/Latino Studies from the College of LAS

#### **PROPOSALS**

- 12/11/17-06 HD.18.01: Honorary Degree Award Nominations

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees, Chair Wheeler introduced and moved approval of proposal HD.18.01.

- 12/11/17-07 Faculty senator Maher (LIBR) made a motion to vote separately for each candidate. The motion was seconded and approved by voice.
- 12/11/17-08 By i-clicker, the honorary degree nomination for Sheila Crump Johnson was approved with 126 in favor and 4 opposed.
- 12/11/17-09 By i-clicker, the honorary degree nomination for Robert S. Langer was approved with 121 in favor and 11 opposed.
- 12/11/17-10 CC.18.10: Nominations for Membership on Standing Committees of the Senate  
On behalf of the Senate Committee on Committees, Chair O'Brien introduced and moved approval of proposal CC.18.10. There were no nominations from the floor.
- 12/11/17-11 By i-clicker, proposal CC.18.08 was approved with 128 in favor and 5 opposed.
- 11/13/17-12 SC.18.07: Election of a Student Member to the Committee on Committees  
On behalf of the SEC, Chair Francis introduced SC.18.07. There were no nominations from the floor. And the following vote totals were reported.
- |                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Karl Thompson   | 41 |
| Michael Whitlow | 83 |

- 11/13/17-13 By i-clicker, Whitlow was declared elected.

- 11/13/17-14 SP.14.06: Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the *Statutes*

On behalf of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP), Chair Gilmore introduced the second reading of proposal SP.14.06 and moved its approval.

Burbules, a member of the University Senates Conference (USC) Statutes and Governance Committee, clarified that the proposal adds the president to the process to initiate amendments to the *Statutes*. This does not give the president more authority, but does allow him the ability to suggest amendments to the *Statutes* in the same manner that the USC and Senates are able to propose amendments to the *Statutes*. Any amendments proposed by the president would still need to be reviewed by the three Senate before going before the Board of Trustees for approval.

- 11/13/17-15 By i-clicker, proposal SP.14.06 was approved with 127 in favor and 9 opposed.

#### **CURRENT STATUS OF ONLINE EDUCATION AT ILLINOIS**

- 11/13/17-16 Kevin Pitts, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, presented information about online education at Illinois.

Presentation slides are available online:

<http://www.senate.illinois.edu/20171211presentation.pdf>

Pitts noted that the undergraduate experience is about being physically on campus. There is no intention of creating a four-year online degree-seeking program. Online graduate students tend to be highly motivated learners, and not physically on campus.

Online activity is growing, with \$30 million in gross revenue for FY17. The units, not the Office of the Provost, are directing where the next online programs are coming from.

Online summer session courses differ somewhat. Our own students are taking online courses, but there are also outside non-degree seeking students. There were almost 350 Summer session courses available.

Three years ago winter session was introduced. The idea was for students to take one course over the few weeks between the spring and fall semesters. 84% felt it was as good or better than most face-to-face courses. Winter break this year is only three weeks long. It will be a challenge.

Traditional online offerings are largely in the graduate programs. There is a significant revenue stream that largely goes to the unit. The only online doctorate is the Doctorate in Education (EdD) and it just debuted this year.

The Coursera relationship began about five years ago with MOOCs (massive open online course). More recently we have developed online degree programs. There are currently four degrees offered through the Coursera platform and Illinois offers three of those four degree programs. Coursera offers a marketing platform for us to reach students. Illinois went from being an online player to being an online leader. These courses are not video recorded on YouTube. They are interactive and have capstone projects.

Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) is not the only producer of online courses on campus, but CITL is the campus place that has built up expertise to help deliver and work with those that are content experts.

Online course offerings are growing, but we have to be wise about what is pursued. The undergraduate residential experience is important and a departure from this model is not expected.

Pitts noted at the end of the presentation that more and more data will be collected. The data will help answer questions like, Is the time to degree shortened by utilizing online courses offered during winter session? There is currently not enough data to report at this time.

#### **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

11/13/17-17 EP.18.26\* EPC Report of Administrative Approvals through November 6, 2017

11/13/17-18 GP.18.01\* Faculty Policy Guide

Burbules, Chair of the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP), stated that the Faculty Policy Guide is a living document that will be updated about once a year. The Guide is available on the Senate, Human Resources, and Office of the Provost websites. New faculty should be aware of the Guide, and current faculty should also review the Guide.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Jenny Roether, Senate Clerk

\*Filed with the Senate Clerk and incorporated by reference in these minutes.  
A video recording of these proceedings can be found at <https://go.illinois.edu/senate>