

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**  
University Senates Conference  
(Final; Information)

**UC.13.10** Report on the June 18, 2013 meeting of the University Senates Conference held at the University of Illinois Urbana campus.

The Conference membership list for 2012-13 can be found here:

<http://www.usc.uillinois.edu/membership.cfm>

The agenda for this meeting can be found here:

<http://www.usc.uillinois.edu/sites/usc.uillinois.edu/files/images/AGN-061813.pdf>

The Conference was joined by President Robert Easter, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Christopher Kennedy, Interim Special Assistant to the President Margaret (Peg) O'Donogue, Assistant Director of University Relations Jan Dennis, and incoming members Gay Miller, Prasanta Kalita, and William Maher (Urbana), and Sandy DeGroot (UIC).

The meeting was convened at 10:00 AM.

**Meeting with President Easter**

**President Easter** reported on ongoing **discussions with legislators** regarding pensions and other issues. His impression was that the proposal of the IGPA was gaining momentum. The presidents of all fourteen Illinois universities have endorsed this proposal, even though none of them would claim it is perfect. The IGPA plan can be found here:

<http://igpa.uillinois.edu/system/files/Six-Simple-Steps-for-Reforming-SURS.pdf>.

The President also briefly discussed Senator Biss's proposed legislation that would impose new limits on the rehiring of retirees by state entities.

The President discussed plans to closely examine the operations of the University's **health enterprise**, which will form the focus of the July Board retreat. He announced that, in contrast to recent retreats, the list of participants will be more closely focused on those directly involved in our health operations. All members of the Conference's Health Affairs committee have been included in the list of Retreat participants.

Plans for a **salary program** were also discussed. President Easter informed the Conference that a communication from Vice President of Academic Affairs Pierre would be sent to the campuses explaining the salary program, and he indicated his agreement with the Conference that it is best to conceive of the salary program in multi-year terms, rather than planning only from one year to the next.

The President encouraged the Conference to think of ways in which **faculty members could more actively participate in discussions about budgetary priorities** on each campus. He mentioned the Urbana campus's **Campus Budget Oversight Committee**, which provides one model for robust faculty participation in campus decisions about budgetary priorities. Prof. Gay Miller (Urbana), who chaired CBOC some years ago, described the committee as the place "where vision meets budget." Prof. Miller described the workings of the CBOC: Each of the colleges submit a budgetary proposal, supported by the expression of a strategic vision, to the provost. The provost forwards those proposals to CBOC, who meet with representatives of each college and then make recommendations to the provost regarding relative allocations to each college. President Easter expressed his intention to **encourage all three provosts and chancellors to consult**

**robustly with faculty groups about budgetary priorities**, and suggested that UIC and UIS should consider setting up committees like CBOC if they do not have them. It was also pointed out that the *University Statutes* require the EOs to prepare their unit budgets in consultation with their advisory or executive committees.

Interim Special Assistant O'Donogue provided a follow-up report on the Conference's earlier request that the President's Office investigate why University ID cards were not available to emeritus professors. She reported that she had worked with the person who oversees the distribution of I-Cards, and that they had worked out a solution that would allow Banner to process these cards. Full implementation of **ID cards for emeritus professors** was projected for mid-July.

#### **LUNCH GUEST: Chris Kennedy, Chair of the Board of Trustees**

Chair Kennedy spoke with Conference members at length about the challenges facing the University of Illinois Hospital and the health services operation, one aspect of which is the considerable overlap between the patient base of the UI Hospital and that of Cook County Hospital. The Board Chairman has asked President Easter to confer with a consulting group, the Huron Group, about potential ways forward for our health services operation and to forward recommendations for the Board to consider. The Huron Group will be involved in the July Board retreat.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

Prof. Kim Graber, chair of the Nominating Committee, reviewed the process followed in securing nominations for USC Chair, USC Vice Chair, and members of the USC Executive Committee and other committees for 2013-14. All members of USC were consulted by members of the nominating committee.

Floor nominations were requested for Chair and Vice-Chair. None were offered. Elections were held by paper ballot for Chair, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Executive Committee. Jorge Villegas (UIS) was elected 2013-14 Chair, and Don Chambers (UIC) was elected 2013-14 Vice Chair. Members elected to the USC Executive Committee were Jorge Villegas (UIS), Don Chambers (UIC), Lynn Fisher (UIS), Kouros Mohammadian (UIC), Roy Campbell, and Joyce Tolliver (Urbana).

#### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING:**

The Conference approved a **revision to ST-79**, which proposes a revision to the *Statutes* that would allow USC to propose revisions to the *Statutes*. The revisions to the proposal which responded to requests from the Chairs of the UIC and UIS Senates would make the processes parallel whether a proposed *Statutes* amendment had initiated with the Senates or with the Conference.

A draft document providing **guidelines for the conduct of USC business** was discussed and revisions were recommended. The Conference agreed to reconsider a revised version of the document at the following meeting.

Chair Burbules provided an update on the **Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government**, reporting that he had enjoyed a productive conversation on the topic with the University of Illinois Foundation President Thomas Farrell. Chair Burbules shared his understanding that some concerns about the structure of the ACLGF's Board have been addressed.

Last but by no means least, several members were presented with plaques in recognition of their years of service to the Conference. The fifteen years of service of Prof. **Kenneth Anderson (Urbana)**, including two terms as its Chair, were warmly acknowledged, as were the contributions of Profs. **Leslie Strubel (Urbana)**, **Geula Gibori (UIS)** and **Tim Shanahan (UIC)**, whose terms on the Conference were ending.

Vice Chair Don Chambers presented a plaque to outgoing Conference Chair **Nicholas C. Burbules (Urbana)** in gratitude for his outstanding leadership throughout the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Tolliver, USC Liaison to Senate Executive Committee