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

UC.15.02 Report on the September 9-10, 2014 Meeting and Retreat of the University Senates Conference at the President's House (Urbana) and Allerton Retreat Center (Monticello)

The Conference membership list for 2014-15 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/documents/AGN-0909.14.pdf>

The Conference was joined on Sept. 9 by President Robert Easter, Vice-President of Academic Affairs Christophe Pierre, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Christopher G. Kennedy.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 BUSINESS MEETING
President's House, Urbana

MEETING WITH CHRISTOPHER KENNEDY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Kennedy joined the Conference by phone. In response to questions from the Conference, Mr. Kennedy expressed his desire that representatives of the Board Conference continue having regular conversations with the Conference. The need for greater participation in shared governance was discussed, and Mr. Kennedy expressed his belief that robust representation of the faculty through active participation in the Senates was essential. He thanked the Conference for the opportunity to join the conversation by phone, and reiterated his interest in meeting with the Conference again in person when his schedule permitted. The Conference also held an executive session with Mr. Kennedy.

MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT PIERRE

The Conference discussed the University's performance in undergraduate admissions, focusing on ways to increase the number of accepted students who enroll. There was particular concern about increasing the number of students from underrepresented groups who accept our admissions offers. Vice President Pierre clarified that students who are accepted but choose not to enroll at the University of Illinois are asked to indicate their reasons for not accepting our offer, and that in these surveys, the top three reasons are related to financial concerns. The President and Conference members also discussed the need to support students academically once they are admitted, and it was suggested that awareness of the issue should be expanded, with a particular emphasis on increasing the engagement of college deans in better recruitment, support, and retention of students from underrepresented groups.

Like Chairman Kennedy, the President also expressed his view that conversations between the Conference and members of the Board should be continued once the new UI president is appointed, and suggested that a joint retreat could be very productive.

BUSINESS MEETING

Profs. Benet Deberry-Spence (UIC) and Jorge Villegas (UIS) reported on their experiences as participants in the Leadership Development Program. The group has met with community leaders and held discussions on administrative leadership in Chicago, Springfield, and Washington, D. C. Both colleagues commented on the knowledge they had acquired about how administrative leaders must engage not only with students and faculty, but also with members of the community and the legislature.

Prof. Nicholas Burbules gave an update on the review of the Statutes and the General Rules. The Conference voted to request that the Board forward the final versions of the proposed revisions to the governing documents early in October, so that the senates may begin their discussions of the proposed revisions during the fall semester.

Two revisions to the Statutes that were proposed earlier, one to the section on academic freedom (ST-72) and one that would permit the University Senates Conference to initiate proposals for revisions (ST-79), will be handled separately from the proposed revisions that result from the major review of the Statutes.

It was also noted that an informal suggestion had been made that the Statutes and the General Rules be merged. There is no formal proposal for such a change at this point, however.

UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE RETREAT, SEPT. 10, 2014 Allerton Retreat Center, Monticello

The Retreat discussion began on the evening of Sept. 9 and continued the next morning. After a break for meetings of the Conference subcommittees, the Conference reconvened for committee reports and further discussion. Discussion at the Retreat focused on the balancing of relationships involved in a public university (the faculty, students, staff, and administrative leadership at each campus; the president, the Board, the legislature, and the citizens of the state); the future of these relationships at the University of Illinois; and goals of each of the committees and of the Conference for the upcoming year. The Retreat ended in the early afternoon on Sept. 10.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Tolliver, USC Liaison to the Senate