

RECEIVED BY SENATE
03/09/2015

UC.15.06
February 9, 2015

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

UC.15.06 Report on the January 22, 2015 Meeting of the University Senates Conference at via videoconference

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/documents>

The Conference was joined by President Bob Easter, President-Designate Tim, Killeen, Vice-President of Academic Affairs Christophe Pierre, and Special Assistant to the President Mike Devocelle

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT EASTER, PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE KILLEEN, AND VICE PRESIDENT PIERRE

President-Designate Killeen expressed to the Conference his gratitude for the ease of the transition toward the new presidency and commented on the many hours he had spent speaking with President Easter and many other members of the University community and other key groups, such as state legislators. He noted in these conversations a “deep loyalty” to the University of Illinois, and said that members of the University must convert that loyalty to institutional shared visions and to narratives of opportunity. An important part of that shared vision, according to Dr. Killeen, will depend upon an examination of the land grant mission in the 21st century.

Such an exercise would begin, he said, with an inclusive “visioning” exercise to generate a University-wide strategic plan. Such a plan would, he said, be focused on the goal of being “best in breed”—not changing individual campus directions, but rather considering how synergies among campuses might improve each campus. He stated that he expected such a process to be initiated by the Board of Trustees and to last about 10 months process.

Dr. Killeen emphasized the importance of avoiding “fear-based” decision making, of getting into the habit of using the word “and” more than the word “but,” and of avoiding false dichotomies.

Conference members reminded Dr. Killeen that an important part of the strategic plan would be an examination of the role of University Administration; and careful thinking about how to make a University of Illinois education more accessible while maintaining our standards of excellence. It was also pointed out that we should be mindful of the gap between the initial excitement about the exercise itself and the decreased energy that might accompany the implementation phase.

BUSINESS MEETING

Proposed revisions to the *General Rules*: The Conference approved a motion from Nicholas Burbules, Chair of the USC Statutes and Governance Committee that the proposed revisions to the Intellectual Property sections of the General Rules be forwarded to all three senates, given that the UIC and UIS senates have forwarded their advice on all the proposed revisions of the Statutes. A second motion, that the Conference propose that the entire section on Intellectual Property be moved from the General Rules to the Statutes, was also discussed and approved unanimously by the Conference.

Campus update from UIS: Each academic unit at UIS is now tracking its productivity through a standardized “dashboard.” UIS Senate chair Jorge Villegas reported that there is great concern at UIS about the state of the budget, particularly because UIS depends more on state funding than the other two campuses do. Dr. Villegas also reported that the tenure-system faculty will soon have a union.

Campus update from UIC: The newly appointed Chancellor, Michael Amiridis, will assume his post in March. In the meantime, Interim Provost Eric Gislason is also acting as Interim Chancellor. The campus had just begun the search for a permanent provost, and had also initiated a search for a new Vice-Chancellor of Health Affairs.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Tolliver, USC Liaison to the Senate