

MINUTES  
UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, August 22, 2024

PLACE: The President's House, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

PRESENT: Campbell, De Groot, Dunning, Fisher, Hale, Hobbs, Jenkins (Chair), Leff, Kalita, Maher, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Sharma, Tolliver, Wink

ABSENT: Danziger, Erricolo, Lyons, Peiravian, Symes

GUESTS: Timothy Killeen, Nicholas Jones, Kelly Block, Nicholas Burbules

I. Call to Order

Professor Jenkins called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and introductions were made.

II. Meeting with President Killeen and Executive Vice President Jones

President Killeen spoke about the additional 22,000 students in the last eight years which demonstrates the strong interest in the University of Illinois, a world-class institution. Operating on an 8-billion-dollar budget, the university provides a 19-billion-dollar economic impact in the state. President Killeen expects the number to increase since the hospital was not included.

The university is delivering on its promise of an inclusive ecosystem demonstrating the importance of learning and education, respectful engagement, and being able to hear other viewpoints. President Killeen spoke about the challenges and conflicts around the world felt here at home, and conveyed the importance of working together, in addition to clear communication of policies.

President Killeen spoke about the upcoming State Tour next month. Professor Jenkins will represent USC. The trip will provide an opportunity to connect with others in Illinois by visiting high schools, businesses, and legislative offices.

EVP Jones provided an enrollment update for UIC, UIS, and UIUC. While challenges were faced due to the Supreme Court decisions and FASFA, there were many enrollment successes. EVP Jones spoke about the opportunities to educate others. In Illinois there are about 2 million individuals with some college and no degree. This group represents a potential opportunity the state. The task group on online education was launched last year. EVP Jones

The task group on online education was launched last year. The Illinois Virtual High School would provide AP Courses across the state that would help fill the gap in areas that are not offering courses. The contribution that could be made to the State of Illinois would be significant, providing quality academic opportunities.

President Killeen spoke about the 2% state appropriation and the continued hiring strategy of hiring faculty. The increase was not what had been requested, but the future looks better as the state's economy grows and priorities move up the list. The university could be close to topping out on enrollment, but distance education could be another

opportunity.

USC inquired about succession planning. President Killeen spoke about his contract extension that was signed for another three years. Thinking about succession, he mentioned it would be like a succession plan for a chancellor. One program that assists with succession is PELP (President's Executive Leadership Program). President Killeen spoke about the incredible talent in this organization.

President Killeen spoke about the efforts to review and clarify policies over the summer to manage potential university unrest. While it is possible to assemble and protest, structures are problematic. If traffic is inhibited or if the situation is intimidating, Student Affairs will be involved. If someone breaks the rules or the law, there will be consequences. President Killeen conveyed the importance of communicating, caring, and supporting each other during stressful times.

EVP Jones spoke about Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) which identifies potential risks for the university, evaluating the impact and likelihood, and responding in a manner to try to mitigate risks. CrowdStrike was not a security. Site security was an issue identified by ERM. Joe Barnes is the Chief Digital Risk Officer for the System who works with leaders at UIC, UIS, and UIUC to mitigate risks. The System Executive Risk Management Council is the senior group that oversees the ERM Process. The President, EVP Jones, Chancellors, VP's, representatives from general counsel, internal audit, ethics and compliance serve on the council. EVP Jones has a direct report (Enterprise Risk Management Director) that monitors the risks and manages processes.

EVP Jones provided examples of risks: Athletics program operations; safety and site security; deferred maintenance; education strategy; enrollment management; employment management strategy; environmental risks; financial sustainability; hospital and clinic strategy; public and political critique of higher education, research and innovation; sexual misconduct, prevention and response; state and federal relations; unfunded mandates; and regulatory burden; student, faculty, and staff mental health and well-being.

USC inquired about the CrowdStrike issue that arose on July 19 that impacted UIS, UIUC, and the System Office. EVP Jones reported that UIC was not impacted due to using different software. The CrowdStrike update that included data about the latest trends had a bug in it and shut down 50% of the university computers. EVP Jones explained the process used to address the issue that was taken care of by local IT Staff and CrowdStrike's technical support. CrowdStrike will use this situation to prevent it from happening again. There are no plans to terminate the contract. EVP Jones advised this puts in a better position now that this has taken place. Mr. Block conveyed this was the first instance of its kind. Mr. Block provided insight to USC on the efforts to backup and preserve data. EVP Jones praised the IT Staff across the universities for their dedication to resolve the CrowdStrike issue.

USC inquired about training and preparation for tragedy. President Killeen provided insight. It is everyone's responsibility to be loving, kind, and helpful. It takes a village to look after each other. UI Police Department has special community training,

additional K-9's and social workers that accompany first responders. Ideas and suggestions are welcome.

USC held a discussion about preparedness. Professor Jenkins suggested questions be asked of the provosts and chancellors. Strategic Communication has put out an academic freedom and freedom of expression website. The Campus Administrative Manual changes and clarification were rolled out with a comment period. Professor Jenkins spoke about his recent experience with others that trained with a crisis management team on de-escalation techniques.

III. Presentation by Executive Vice President Jones and Kelly Block on the System-wide Data Strategy Task Force

EVP Jones shared that data strategy was identified as a risk by ERM. Risks are also opportunities. The goal for data strategy focus is that the UI System should be a leader in data management with a data-informed culture working to educate faculty, staff, and students about the appropriate use of data to aide in decision making. This includes the culture of data literacy and treating data as an asset to leverage the competitive advantage.

The task force will provide a current state assessment; proposed future state; actionable recommendations; an implementation roadmap; and an identification of resource needs and gaps. Input has been obtained from over 150 as a System in either the task force, a subgroup, or a focus group. USC will have an opportunity to provide input in a focus group if selected. Information should be ready to present in October. The four focus areas are: 1) Student Data & Innovation; 2) Privacy; 3) Governance & Data Management; and 4) Technology & Operations

Mr. Block spoke about the university being data rich and information poor. The universities do well innovating. It's important to look at the capabilities. Some colleges and departments have the capabilities in their area, so do not.

Professor Jenkins expressed appreciation to President Killeen, EVP Jones, and Mr. Block for joining the meeting today.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m.

IV. Committee Meetings

Committee Meetings were held from 1:15 p.m. to 1:35 p.m.

V. Business Meeting

The meeting resumed at 1:40 p.m.

VI. Remarks from the USC Chair

Professor Jenkins looks forward to working with USC in the busy year ahead.

VII. Public Comment  
None

VIII. Approval of Minutes from June 27-28, 2024

A motion was made by Professor Moorhouse and seconded by Professor Dunning to approve the minutes from June 27-28, 2024. No discussion. The minutes were approved with a voice vote.

Yes: Campbell, De Groot, Dunning, Jenkins (Chair), Kalita, Leff, Moorhouse, Sharma, Tolliver, Wink

No: None

Abstain: Fisher, Hale, Schwinn

IX. Approval of Minutes from June 28, 2024 (2024-2025 Organizational Meeting)

A motion was made by Professor Moorhouse and seconded by Professor Sharma to approve the minutes from the Organizational Meeting held on June 28, 2024. No discussion. The minutes were approved with a voice vote.

Yes: Campbell, De Groot, Dunning, Jenkins (Chair), Kalita, Leff, Moorhouse, Sharma, Tolliver, Wink

No: None

Abstain: Fisher, Hale, Schwinn

X. Classification of Senate Minutes

None

XI. USC Committee as a Whole Discussion

a. Determine USC Retreat Topic and Sessions (October 8 and 9)

Professor Jenkins inquired about retreat topics. USC spoke about the importance of having a rich research enterprise in the State of Illinois and was interested in guidance to the System on the direction with the proposed IBHE funding formula.

b. Suggest speakers for 2024-2025 USC Meetings

USC suggested inviting the following speakers:

- i. VP Ellinger
- ii. Melissa Mlynski
- iii. Paul Weinberger
- iv. Jennifer Creasey
- v. Chancellors

c. Determine if the June 2025 meeting will be one or two days.

Professor Jenkins inquired with USC on the duration of June meeting. USC requested the meeting be held over two days. The meeting is scheduled for June 25-26, 2025.

XII. Today's Business – Discussion

- a. Provide input on Data Strategy documents  
Professor Jenkins requested input from USC. Discussion was held on types of research, types of data, how to manage the data, how it could be used, privacy policies, and equity. The consensus was that faculty should be involved in making policies. A follow up letter will be sent for clarification.
- b. Select Focus Group Representatives (UIC-4, UIS-2, UIUC-4)  
Professor Jenkins requested names to Professor Jenkins and Mr. Perryn by Monday, August 25.

XIII. Today's Business – Action Items

- a. OT-391: Proposed revision to USC *Bylaws* by SGC  
Professor De Groote spoke on the proposed change to the USC *Bylaws* that would require a vote from the Conference when the Conference is asked for member representation on a system-wide committee or other external entity to USC. Professor De Groote conveyed that SGC approved the proposal upon removing the word “regular” when describing a committee. SGC recommends USC approve the proposed revision to the USC *Bylaws*. No discussion.

Professor Jenkins called for a vote to approve the proposed revision to the USC *Bylaws*. The proposed revision to the USC *Bylaws* was approved with a voice vote.

Yes: Campbell, De Groote, Fisher, Hale, Hobbs, Jenkins (Chair), Kalita, Leff, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Sharma, Tolliver, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

- b. ST-83: Send SGC recommendations on ST-83 to Senates for review  
Professor De Groote shared that the Statutes and Governance Committee voted to move ST-83 forward with USC sending a copy to the President and the Senates simultaneously. A discussion was held.

Professor Jenkins called for a vote to send ST-83 to the Senates and the President for review. The vote to send ST-83 was approved by a voice vote.

Yes: Campbell, De Groote, Fisher, Hale, Hobbs, Jenkins (Chair), Kalita, Leff, Moorhouse, Schwinn, Sharma, Tolliver, Wink

No: None

Abstain: None

- c. Determine USC Presenters and Observers for Board of Trustees Meetings

Date	Location	Presenter	Observer	From
9/19/2024	Urbana	Jenkins	Moorhouse	Urbana
11/14/2024	Chicago	Schwinn	Hobbs	Chicago
01/23/2025	Chicago	Hobbs	Wink	Chicago
03/20/2025	Springfield	Moorhouse	Dunning	Springfield
05/22/2025	Urbana	Dunning	Hale	Urbana
07/24/2025	Chicago	Jenkins	De Groot	Chicago

XIV. Old Business – Information and Discussion Items

- a. ST-83. Revisions to the *Statutes* – newly proposed revisions. Sent to Executive Vice President Wilson 05/01/2020. Proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 following ST- 77) transmitted to UIS, UIC, and UIUC Senates 09/02/2021. UIC responded with Collated Comments 01/12/2022. USC sent a request for bifurcation and clarification to UIC on 02/08/2022. UIC Senate Request for Modifications 12/01/2022. The proposed statutory revisions have been transmitted to UIS, UIC, and UIUC Senates. UIC, UIS, and UIUC Senates have sent their response. USC has referred ST-83 to SGC. ST-83 was transmitted by USC to the Senates (UIC, UIS, UIUC) and President Killeen 08/28/2024.
- b. ST-87 Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article I, Section 5 – Chancellors and Vice Presidents, Article II, Section 3a (1) – Faculty Role in Governance, and Article III, Section 1g – The University. Passed UIUC Senate 11/15/2021. Transmitted to UIC and UIS Senates on 03/02/2022.
- c. ST-89 Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article IV, Section 1 – The Department, Section 2 – Department Organized with a Chair (Section 2b – Department Organized with a Chair), Section 3 – Department Organized with a Head (Section 3b – Department Organized with a Head), and Section 4 – Change of Department Administrative Organization. Passed UIUC Senate 04/24/2023. Transmitted to UIC and UIS 06/21/2023.
- d. ST-90: Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 7a – Sabbatical Leaves and Unpaid Leaves of Absence for Members of the Faculty. Passed UIC Senate 03/14/2024. USC referred ST-90 to SGC. Letter transmitted to UIC Senate with the request to resubmit after ST-83 has been resolved 08/06/2024.
- e. ST-91: Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II, Sections 3a (1) and 3a (2) – Faculty Role in Governance. Passed UIC Senate 03/14/2024. USC referred ST-91 to SGC. Letter transmitted to UIC Senate with the request to resubmit after ST-83 has been resolved 08/06/2024.
- f. OT-387. University of Illinois System Values and Principles. Transmitted to the Senates on 03/27/2023 with advice requested to USC by 05/15/2023. 06/26/2023 requested an extension to provide input through Fall 2023. Revised version sent to Senates with feedback requested by 01/17/2024. The UIC and UIUC Senates have sent their response. A status update letter has been sent to EVP Jones. UIS

Senate has sent their response. Letter with USC response transmitted to EVP Jones 08/12/2024.

- g. OT-391. Proposed revision to USC *Bylaws*: USC Representation on system-wide committees or other entities external to USC. OT-391 passed 08/22/2024.
- h. SI-1. Updates from each University
  - i. University of Illinois Chicago  
No update.
  - ii. University of Illinois Springfield  
No update.
  - iii. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Professor Hale spoke about the work on freedom of expression.
- i. SI-2. Updates from Standing Committees
  - i. Academic Affairs and Research (AARC)  
Professor Hobbs was selected as Chair.
  - ii. Finance, Budget, and Benefits (FBBC)  
A chair could not be selected due to lack of quorum.
  - iii. Statutes and Governance (SGC)  
Professor De Groot was selected as Chair.
- j. SI-3. Updates from External Groups with USC Representation
  - i. Data Strategy System-wide Task Force  
Professor Campbell will provide a report in the future.
  - ii. Digital Risk Council  
Professor Campbell will provide a report in the future.
  - iii. Discovery Partners Institute Executive Committee  
Professor Wink provided an update advising the next step will be to meet with the candidates for the DPI Executive Director position.
  - iv. Enrollment Management Policy Council  
Professor Leff reported the next meeting is scheduled for October 23.
  - v. President's Executive Leadership Program  
Professor Jenkins expressed his delight with PELP. The DPI Presentation made it clear that Dr. Dutta has had an impact.
  - vi. System Task Force on Online Strategy  
USC expressed interest in a report. Mr. Perryn will inquire.

- vii. System-wide Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Council  
Professor Moorhouse is waiting for a meeting to be scheduled.
- viii. University of Illinois System President's Advisory Council  
Professor Sharma spoke highly of his experience on the President's Advisory Council.
- ix. Workplace Behavior Policy  
Professor Tolliver reported that this group is currently inactive.
- x. Search Committee Representative for UI System Chief of Staff  
Professor Hobbs for Professor Dunning that Dr. Avijit Ghosh is Chair of the search committee. There were 52 applicants for the UI System Chief of Staff. Several interviews have taken place virtually. The final candidates will be brought in.
- k. Adjournment – Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 8, 2024, and Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at UIUC.