
Senators Absent: D. Ruez, J. Hollins

Ex-Officio: L. Pardie


The meeting was called to order by Chair Fisher at 10:03 a.m.

Remarks from the Chancellor/VP Susan J. Koch

Chancellor Koch started by discussing the economists report at the last Board of Trustees meeting, which indicated that the Illinois economy is slowly improving. However, the State, particularly higher education, is still faced with some very serious challenges. The pension issue is the black cloud over all of our campuses and that continues to be a looming problem. Pension costs are eating up a lot of the revenue that the state is taking in. So while the economy is better, until the pension issue is addressed, things are not going to look much better for us. We anticipate that some action on pensions will be attempted, but progress is going to be difficult. There are various ideas being discussed and UI has representatives who are very involved with those discussions. Currently, the situation is not good and we do not see a tremendous amount of progress. The pension issue has an influence on our budget process and we anticipate a budget reduction. We have had some communication from the Office of Management and Budget that there will be a reduction. We don’t know what that reduction will be so we are planning for various scenarios. We will go through the usual budget process. It will start at the campus level and there will be dialog about it, but we are on hold at the moment. The Chancellor said she expects we will hear something more definite sometime in the next three or four weeks.

At the last BOT meeting a decision was made to have a very modest tuition increase of 1.7% for in-state freshmen. Chancellor Koch said she was supportive of this modest increase and appreciates the Board’s recognition of the need to keep the UI experience accessible. The negative side of this is that it is tuition that drives the revenue engine on our campus and there will be a little less coming in with this class.

We have a new member on the BOT, Patrick Fitzgerald. He is an attorney, a member of a very prestigious law firm in Chicago, and also a former US attorney for the northern district of Illinois. UIS is the only campus he has not visited and Chancellor Koch said she is working with the BOT office to arrange a visit sometime in late spring.
There is a lot going on with the UI Foundation that is very important to UIS. We have hired a new President, Tom Farrell, from the University of Chicago. There has been almost a complete turnover in the Foundation leadership. Dr. Jeff Lorber, who started as our new Vice-Chancellor in October, is now the senior Vice-Chancellor in the foundation. According to the Chancellor, changing leadership between capital campaigns is an ideal time. There is nothing unusual in that but it is going to require a lot of learning and orientating on the part of those new leaders. We have several projects underway at the UI Foundation level that UIS is going to be involved in. The Foundation has hired the best consulting firm in the country to do a portfolio analysis project for the entire University of Illinois and for all three campuses. They are going to look at the entire alumni base of all three campuses, plus all other donors and prospective donors, to assess the capability that that pool of people have to support the three campuses. They are starting to plan and gauge the next campaign. The Foundation is also going to be building and/or purchasing a new software program to support the activities of fundraising. UIS is very involved with these projects and we are thinking very carefully about the future. Part of what we are going to do as we look ahead to the next capital campaign is to become very focused on the story that UIS has to tell. It is the stories that we tell about ourselves, the priorities that we set for ourselves, that really are the root of the next campaign. Our last campaign, which ended in December 2011, was successful, and Tom Farrell thinks that we can do even better on the next one. If you compare the success that UI has had in fundraising with the success of other universities of our size and type then we haven’t done that well. Our goal is to do a whole lot better. One other UI level issue is sequestration, which refers to across the board cuts at the Federal level that are scheduled to take effect March 1 of this year, if congress doesn’t take action. Those cuts would result in the loss of 45 million dollars to the University of Illinois. This mostly impacts the very large research endeavors at the University of Illinois. The direct impact for UIS would be work study. We have a vital interest with what happens with sequestration and are hopeful that congress will take action to preserve those resources. Pell grants would not be affected if sequestration occurs. We are working hard with our congressional delegation.

At the campus level, we are always in the process of making critical hires. We recently hired Laura Alexander as Senior Director of Human Resources. She comes to us from the University of Wyoming and brings vast knowledge and experience. Every hire that we make is important, and the Chancellor thanked all those serving on search committees for the attention devoted to that task. Talent acquisition and retention are top priorities for the Chancellor.

There are some very promising indicators for the Fall in admissions, recruitment and retention. Right now it looks like we are going to have a strong freshman class. Our admissions are up for freshman, and our graduate admissions are up as well. We have more graduate students proportionately than other schools like us. That is our heritage and it is good to see that graduate admissions are up. We are starting to make progress in the recruitment of international students and that should continue to advance as well. The negative indicator now is continuing on-campus transfer students. Some students who transfer to our campus stay a semester or two and don’t come back. We know that money is a part of that so we are looking at the financial aid package, but we are trying to understand what else is contributing to this issue. We are trying to figure out what else we can do to make these students successful. That segment affects our enrollment just like any other segment does. With the leadership of Dr. Barnett, we have been working on creating a joint admissions agreement with Lincoln Land Community College. That will create a brighter path for LLCC students to flow to our campus. We have had over 5000 students for the last three years and continued growth of our student body needs to be a priority. As the student body grows we are going to have to hire more faculty and more staff in key areas, but since it is tuition that drives the revenue engine of the university, the Chancellor expressed confidence that those goals could be achieved.

The factors that impact UIS’s ability to grow are these: first and foremost we have to be excellent in what we do. The reason we are so highly ranked is because we are very good at what we do. We also have to
be relevant and we have to be visible. We also have to be as affordable as possible, and we have to be accessible. We have to continue to be as inclusive as we can and under that umbrella is the need to have an environment where everyone, regardless of their background, feels welcome. Part of that process is creating a more diverse faculty and staff and that is an area where we are not making much progress. Finally, in order for us to grow we need to be engaged with each other, with our students, and as a community. The Chancellor mentioned the Public Affairs Reporting Hall of Fame event as an example of excellence. Nina Burleigh, Jim Prather, and Jim Webb, all UIS/SSU graduates were inducted into the hall of fame. The keynote speaker for the event was Patty Culhane, also a UIS PAR graduate and currently the White House correspondent for Al Jazeera.

The Chancellor said she had four finalist proposals for the architect for the new Student Union. On March 1, the four finalists will be on campus to present their proposals to the student union committee; the committee will make a recommendation to the Chancellor. Chancellor Koch will then have a dialog with the facilities personnel in Urbana. The architect should be hired in very early March and there should be initial drawings ready by June. We are on schedule to open the doors to that facility by Fall of 2015.

The Chancellor acknowledged the gift of Dr. Dick Moy, whose wife Carol was a faculty member at UIS for many years. This was really a gift to the faculty at UIS. The gift of $250,000 in Carol Moy’s name is going to allow for faculty to engage in joint research projects with faculty members at SIU School of Medicine. The infrastructure for that is now being built. The Chancellor said that Dr. Moy passed away early this morning and that we will mourn his passing and honor this wonderful gift. Because of this gift, Carol Moy’s contributions to this campus will live on for many years.

The Chancellor announced that Kathy Best, a Public Affairs Reporting graduate and winner of the Pulitzer Prize has agreed to give the commencement address. Best is employed by the Seattle Times.

The Chancellor finished her remarks by saying it is a great honor to serve as Chancellor and she appreciates the openness in communication. If we continue to dialog with each other we will continue to be a strong campus well into the future.

The Chancellor responded to questions about campus diversity, dialog with transfer students, and the joint enrollment agreement with LLCC.

**Approval of the Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda by Kline; Li seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

**Approval of Minutes**
Motion to approve by Dell; Agarwal seconded. After a correction to lines 214-215 adding McCaughan to those abstaining, identifying a student listed on line 230 as “unidentified,” clarification to a remark by Boltuc on lines 369-370 and a typographical error on line 114 the minutes were approved.

**Announcements**
Switzer announced that today at 5:00pm is the deadline for submissions for StARS.

**Reports**

**Chair – L. Fisher**
Fisher thanks Provost for her swift and flexible response to the sabbatical process discussed at last meeting. The Chair also thanked everyone for their patience at the last meeting as the Senate dealt
with a number of complex issues in a single meeting. The Senate follows Robert’s Rules of Order which lays down some very clear rules about dealing with contentious debates or issues that many people want to comment on. First, Senators have priority on addressing an item, but we welcome comments from the gallery. Both Senators and members of the gallery should pay attention to several rules. One is relevance to the question before the Senate. There is always a motion before the Senate that is being considered, and comments should be relevant to the motion. Brevity and not restating points so the discussion may advance are also important. Those who have not yet spoken to an issue should have priority over those who have already expressed an opinion. Comments should always be about the motion or proposal and not about the people who may be proposing them. This is an important part of the civility and decorum of the parliamentary process.

The Chair finished her report by expressing appreciation to the Women’s Center for a wonderful event yesterday, which was our campus participation in the One Billion Rising campaign to raise awareness of violence against women.

Provost Report – L. Pardie

The new Academic Programs Task Force has been meeting every two weeks. The task force is charged with developing a prioritized list of viable new academic programs, focusing primarily on programs at the undergraduate level. The emphasis is on programs that will enhance enrollment growth and academic excellence at UIS. There have been over eighty suggestions submitted to the task force and while there is a focus on identifying the top two or three programs initially, the goal is to continue work with that list to identify programs that may be phased in. An integral part of this process is that the Deans will begin to have conversations with Departments to identify particular areas of faculty expertise in potential new areas, and incorporate their input and feedback. There is a web page in development that will have the task force charge and the individual members of the task force as well as other information. The Provost will continue to provide updates on the task force at Senate meetings.

Jonathan Goldberg-Belle, the Director of International Programs, has been working for eighteen months on the administrivia helping us to get prepared for membership in the International Student Exchange Program. ISEP is a consortium of about 300 universities and colleges across many nations that are working collaboratively to make study abroad easier and to ensure the quality of the student exchange opportunities. UIS has been accepted for membership in that consortium and we will have a site visit very soon. Dr. Goldberg-Belle is hopeful that we might be able to have our first exchanges in the late winter or early spring of 2014. This will also help enrich the diversity of our campus community.

On the search for two academic deans, we have had very strong applicant pools and both of those searches are moving along very well. More information on the on-campus portion of those searches is forthcoming.

Martin asked the Provost to comment on the transition of the position of Director of the Honors Program. The Provost said we are moving forward with a transition that may seem symbolic but it is an important symbol. The Directorship of the Capital Honors program was for many years a faculty administrative position that was transitioned to an academic professional position a few years ago. It is important that it be shifted back to a faculty position. The Capital Scholars Honors program is a very significant program for us and we want to ensure that for the future it is regarded as very important for the campus and that we all have a stake in the success of the program. There are subtle but important differences between faculty and academic professionals. We want to have someone who is focused on the academic leadership of that program. We are planning to put in place an administrative AP to be one of the associate directors to help relieve the director of some of the administrative burden. Li asked if we had data on how many UIS students are interested in study abroad, and if the new program would be focused on summer term or
semester based. The Provost said she did not have specific data about the number of UIS students interested in study abroad but this program will enhance opportunities, and would not be limited to any specific term. Dell stated for the record that the Director of Capital Scholars was widely supported by the members of the program and she has been in an AP position. Dell agreed with the Provost that this should be a faculty position, but Dell wanted on the record that Dr. Kirkendall was terminated as an AP and therefore the position’s transition has implications. This is a transition that the faculty and staff in Capital Honors have been concerned about and are happy to have Dr. Kirkendall continue to lead.

**Student Government Association – R. Bouray**
SGA recently sponsored “cheesecake with the Chancellor.” This was held in the evening, but SGA looks forward to working with transfer students to schedule a time for the next event that will be more inclusive. The UIS nickname task force is still underway; it is currently reaching out to members of the UIS community. SGA received a petition in support of the Liberty Studies Minor with 86 signatures.

**Committee on Committees – K. Jamison**
Holly Kent from LAS will fill the Spring 13 vacancy on the Research Board. There is still an opening on the Undergraduate Council that should be filled by CLAS.

**Old Business**

**Resolution 42-13, Creation of a Minor in Liberty Studies [2nd reading]**
Chair Fisher introduced the topic by reminding Senators of the previous discussion at the last meeting. The Chair identified a couple of points that had been raised in previous discussions. One debate was about funding and the potential for external influence on the curriculum. Both Kline and Hadley-Ives have made the point that the minor has no direct funding from the Academy for Capitalism and Limited Government and have emphasized the lack of control by any outside funder over the content of courses in the minor. The second point that was discussed is whether the minor as proposed does justice to the breadth of perspectives or theories about freedoms and political philosophies. Both Hadley-Ives and Kline have said they are very open to other perspectives and also referred to the wide variety of perspectives already represented by faculty teaching.

Boltuc said the most famous faculty ever at UIS was Larry Golden because of his position on the right of a neo-Nazi group to march in a Jewish neighborhood in Skokie, Illinois. He destroyed his political career because he argued for civil liberty. Boltuc cited the McCarthy era as the biggest violation of academic freedom in this country. Boltuc said it was an attempt to censor the content of academic freedom. Boltuc said he was very uncomfortable with the message in emails spread out from our colleague in Political Science, Richard Gilman-Opalsky, that were essentially arguing for censorship in the content area. Boltuc also cited a recent instance in New York where extremely controversial content was presented at one of the New York colleges. Anti-Semitic and pro-Palestinian speakers were encouraged which made many faculty members and local politicians uncomfortable and they tried to censor the speakers. Mayor Bloomberg, himself of Jewish heritage, defended the speakers’ academic freedom. Boltuc said he should be approved, especially given that it has been approved by the Undergraduate Council and other groups. Transue said the Senate had previously asked that individuals not be named in the course of discussion, citing a portion of Robert’s Rules of Order that states “the measure, not the member, is the subject of debate.” Boltuc said our Parliamentarian (Transue) does not take into account that Robert’s Rules of Order are different for academic debate. Boltuc said he was not personalizing the issue but he had to attribute contributions to particular persons.

Gilman-Opalsky said he appreciated the point on decorum, although he was more than comfortable being named, as the message he sent to the Senate on February 12 was not an anonymous message. Gilman-Opalsky said that as a scholar he submits articles to journals that are sometimes rejected or returned for
revision. He takes seriously the feedback from scholars in his field, and he would not tell the editor the articles should be published in the name of academic freedom. Gilman-Opalsky asked the Senators to take seriously the content of his statement of the minor and integrate it into their decision making process.

There are two very clear and well-articulated framings of the Liberty Studies minor; there is the one that is presently before the Senate which emphasizes open inquiry into the question of liberty. There is also a very different articulation of this Liberty Studies minor, which was also articulated by the person who is proposing it elsewhere. Gilman-Opalsky said he was asking the Senate to consider the broader context in which this minor has been consciously, not accidentally, situated. Gilman-Opalsky quoted from the Liberty Studies website, which states in a continuously updated list “where it is possible to pursue an education in Liberty in colleges and universities across the United States.” Gilman-Opalsky said that if you included all of the places where a serious inquiry into freedom in human societies was made that would be a very long list and would include any campus in this country with good Philosophy, Humanities and Social Science departments, but this is a very short list. It names eleven campuses. Gilman-Opalsky asked the Senate to consider that the person who is proposing this minor identifies eleven campuses across the United States where it is possible to pursue an education in liberty; moreover, on each campus is named a specific research institute and research center oriented around a very narrow vision of what liberty means. This accounts for a miniscule sub-set of what is considered the study of liberty in the history of philosophy, among historians, sociologists and many throughout the humanities. Gilman-Opalsky said the broader context in which this minor is situated may have been left out of this conversation, but he asked that Senators not leave it out of their decision making process.

Chris Blankenhorn, a guest, said he was in favor of academic freedom and that no one had been advocating censorship, rather the issue was the university stamp on an ideological endeavor. Blankenhorn referred to comparisons of this minor with African American and Women and Gender Studies. These are historically oppressed groups, while free market capitalism is not a minority view. Martin called for a point of order, saying the guest was not addressing the motion before the Senate. Blankenhorn said he had eighty signatures on a petition in opposition to the minor. Martin said it was not fair to judge a proposal by the vilest of its proponents and he feels that the opponents have set up a straw man that they are kicking over and setting on fire.

Barnett said the Chair had previously mentioned the funding issue and had reminded the Senate that there would be no direct outside influence on this minor. Barnett also said that while the curriculum for the minor has been established, Dr. Kline is open to dialogue and inclusion of views of Liberty Studies by those opposing this minor. Barnett said that since this has gone through Undergraduate Council are we then saying there is a lack of trust? Transue said he appreciates the diversity of the discussion but the narrowness question keeps coming up. The courses offered are all valid and as a concentration it makes sense, but as a minor it seems incomplete as there are no political science courses. Most minors at UIS are associated with a major that answers to some accrediting body where the minor gives a taste of how that’s done at UIS. We are small and none of our departments cover entire disciplines, but there is some comprehensiveness. Transue said he was not concerned about the funding issue, but he asked if we could continue the minor without the post-docs and other external resources. Transue asked if we could have some explicit mention of other ways of looking at liberty besides the market perspective.

Kline said he was aware of the gallery’s petition and that it was an on-line petition from Facebook. He believes it would be difficult to discern how many signatures were UIS students. Kline also said the University of Illinois has some marvelous procedures in place to firewall us from outside funding. As for the Liberty Studies website, Kline said the postings are out of date because he has been working on formulating the minor. He said sometimes the focus can be selective, and it was not false that you can study liberty at the universities that are listed on the website. The website never pretends to be comprehensive. Kline said it was interesting to note that the minor has been accused of market fetishism or a focus on markets; whereas, if you look at the actual posts there’s a lot of Hobbes, Hume, and he
understands political science has a claim to that but so does philosophy and that is Kline’s PhD. Kline said he doesn’t think there are any posts on Rand or Friedman or the standard academic punching bags of that view. Kline said the Radical Student Union was aware of the recent weekend on liberty here at UIS and not a single one attended, even though they were invited. Kline said there were some things left off of the minor, including the whole narrative of what it’s like to be free to follow God’s will. He said the minor is not comprehensive but it is inclusive.

Jason Jenkins, a guest, said we cannot ignore the potential for influence from outside funding sources. He read several comments from UIS students who are opposed to the minor. Bussell said this seems to be a branding issue, and that the university is exactly the place where these kinds of debates should take place. Switzer asked at what level courses could be added or deleted once the Senate has approved the minor. The Provost said that as with any minor, the responsibility for curriculum lies within the department. Dell said she was a strong supporter of academic freedom and that her ability to teach on feminism was contingent on Kline’s ability to teach rigorously on various philosophers. Dell said she has looked at the proposal and there is some diversity in it, and there are a number of people teaching in the program who have different perspectives. Dell said it would be helpful to have the faculty who are participating in this minor come up with language that would clearly articulate the different perspectives that are being presented. Borland said academic freedom does not mean that the Senate has to approve every minor or major proposal that is presented. She said the question was whether it was important for UIS to have a minor in liberty studies. Borland said that in discussing this with other faculty she has found that this minor has been touted in a certain ideological community for two years, before it was even proposed. She said that this was something that was going to impact the reputation of our campus, maybe positively, maybe negatively. Borland cautioned the Senate to tread lightly and to take seriously what Senate support of this minor would mean to our campus and its reputation.

Li said both sides sounded reasonable to him and that some Senators do not have the knowledge to judge whether this was fair to each side. Williams said he was concerned about the image of UIS on the internet, and while we cannot control the internet, it is important that the image of UIS that is out there is as accurate as possible. Kline said we had Ward Churchill here, who is not the most loved or least controversial person. Kline said it is a dangerous thing to say you are worried about image. He said there are two questions; the first is what is liberty, and the second is what is the value you place on liberty? This course does not talk about the value of liberty, although libertarians would probably be attracted to it and conservatives would probably flock away from it. Kline said we are talking about a particular thought and philosophy and some people might be more interested in that than others.

Dell moved to extend the meeting for fifteen minutes; Bussell seconded; the motion passed. Killam asked if this was the correct program for this minor. Barnett wondered if the Senate was setting a precedent for the future creation of majors and minors, like an ideological or public relations litmus test. Barnett asked when the last time a major or minor had been voted down by the Senate after it had gone through all the hoops it was supposed to go through. The Chair said it was not common. Hadley-Ives said offering this minor was a way to open the department to the wider university. He also said a minor is not an ideological endeavor. If one of the faculty teaching in the minor is engaged in activism in his discipline, and that activism is part of an ideological endeavor, that doesn’t matter. The point is whether the minor itself is an ideological endeavor. The LNT department contends that if you compare this minor or the classes that are in it to any reasonable definition of ideological endeavor, you would not find a match.

Martin moved to limit additional debate to five minutes; Bennett seconded; a show of hands resulted in 18 in favor, 3 opposed, with Kline, Owusu-Ansah and Boltuc abstaining. The motion carried. Boltuc said that approving this minor would be a political fact known on the web, but also rejecting it would be a bigger fact. Dell proposed making a motion to request more information from the faculty teaching courses
in this minor. The Chair said a motion had already been made to limit debate to five more minutes. Bapat, Chair of the Undergraduate Council, said the College Curriculum Committee and the UGC had done their due diligence in considering this minor.

A vote on the measure resulted in fifteen in favor, five opposed, with Dell, Agarwal, McCaughan, and Thompson abstaining.

**Adjournment**
McCaughan moved to adjourn; Martin seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.