

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES  
(Final; Action)

SP.24.07      Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.17 and Part E.8 – Committee on Research Policy

**BACKGROUND**

The Report of the Eighth Senate Review Commission ([XSR.19.01](#)) recommended that the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) examine the work of the committees of the Senate, including areas of the Senate’s work that might not be covered by a committee as currently charged. At its November 29, 2021 meeting, the SEC formed an *ad hoc* working group to examine the possible addition of a Committee on Research Policy to the Senate’s roster of standing committees. The working group considered the matter, looking into a prior attempt by the Senate to form such a committee during the 1990s-2000s, consulting with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation (OVCRI), and offering initial language that might establish such a committee.

Previously, the [Fourth Senate Review Commission’s report from 1992](#) recommended:

Committee on Research Policy. The Commission recommends the establishment of a new committee that shall be responsible for examination and review of all matters of research policy, including ethical issues related to the conduct and administration of research and the establishment or discontinuance of research units. Heretofore, the Senate has not had a committee directly concerned with research policy. Federal regulations continue to affect the conduct of research; there is a continuing need to develop policies relating to relationships with industry, the ethical practices of research, and interrelationships between faculty investigators on joint projects. A number of policy issues need to be debated and discussed and reported to the Senate for action, if appropriate. This committee would be broadly advisory to the Vice-Chancellor for Research.

This recommendation led to [SP.96.03](#), a proposal by the Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP), which would have created a standing senate Committee on Research Policy. At the [March 19, 2001 Senate meeting](#), substitute language was approved after much debate: see [SP.96.03, page 3](#). That amended language shifted the idea to a Research Policy Committee appointed by the Vice-Chancellor for Research (VCR), with nominations from the Senate, which would “advise the Chancellor, the VCR, and the Senate on matters of research policy.” The amended language was referred back to SP because the substitute proposal structured a joint committee, but was not presented as a *Bylaws* amendment.

This item returned to the Senate as [SP.02.03](#), approved by the Senate at its November 3, 2003 meeting, creating a Research Policy Committee under the Senates *Bylaws*, Part F, “Senate Representatives to Other Bodies.” In 2017, the Senate streamlined how the Senate’s slate of nominees is created via [SP.17.05](#), noting at the time: “Because the existing process for the Committee on Committees and Senate actions on nominations is complex, the Vice-Chancellor for Research and the Research Policy Committee has requested a streamlining of the process used to establish the committee roster.” However, the Senate has not sent a slate of nominations since 2018.

The SEC working group thus began with language originally proposed in SP.96.03, using it as a basis for a number of discussions with the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation and members of the OVCRI. That Office has grown substantially (as has the scope of research on campus) since the 1990s and members of the OVCRI weighed in on new obligations, such as particular federal reporting standards that did not exist during the previous attempt to form such a committee. The SEC working group proposed modifications to the charge of a Committee on Research Policy and transmitted modified proposal language to SP at the end of 2023.

The proposed language would create a new standing committee of the Senate, charged with a series of responsibilities in relation to research policy and which would be broadly representative. The proposal would also remove the currently defined (but defunct) Research Policy Committee from the *Bylaws*, Part E.8.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends the approval of the following revisions to the *Bylaws*. Text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~ and text to be added is underlined. Adoption of amendments to the *Bylaws* requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

1 **REVISION TO THE *BYLAWS*, PART D.17 – Standing Committees**

2 New #17 [renumber current 17-20 to be new 18-21]

3 **17. Committee on Research Policy**

4 **a. Duties**

5 **The Committee shall:**

6 1. Advise the Senate on matters of research policy and represent the research interests  
7 of the faculty, students, and staff on matters such as:

8 a) policies for sponsored research proposals to outside agencies;

9 b) policies for the distribution of research funds;

10 c) policies regarding the responsible conduct of research; and

- 11 d) other matters related to research policy, including those governed externally.  
12 2. Offer proposals on research policy to the Senate for review; and  
13 3. Consider relevant policies in consultation with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for  
14 Research and Innovation, recognizing that committee recommendations on research  
15 policies may be constrained by state and federal mandates.

16 b. Membership

17 The Committee shall consist of:

- 18 1. Six faculty members, with no more than two members from any one college, school,  
19 institute, division, or similar unit;  
20 2. One academic professional member;  
21 3. Two student members, including one undergraduate and one graduate or  
22 professional student;  
23 4. The Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation or the Vice Chancellor's designee  
24 (ex officio);  
25 5. The Dean of the Graduate College or the Dean's designee (ex officio);  
26 6. The Provost or the Provost's designee (ex officio); and  
27 7. One faculty member of the Illinois Campus Research Board, selected by that Board  
28 (ex officio).

29

30 **REVISION TO THE BYLAWS, PART E.8 – Committee on Research Policy**

31 **8. Research Policy Committee**

32 ~~This committee advises the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation~~  
33 ~~(VCRI), and the Senate on matters of research policy. The committee should have no~~  
34 ~~fewer than ten members and no more than fifteen members, and the VCRI appoints all~~  
35 ~~members of the committee, typically for two-year terms. The committee has a faculty~~  
36 ~~chair selected in consultation with the Senate Executive Committee. At least eight~~  
37 ~~members of the Committee shall be faculty chosen from nominations provided by the~~  
38 ~~Senate Committee on Committees, submitted to the full Senate for approval and~~  
39 ~~subsequent transmittal of the nominees to the VCRI. The other members shall be~~

40 ~~appointed by the VCRI and may include students and academic professionals. The Chair~~  
41 ~~of the Research Policy Committee will provide a written report to the Senate on the~~  
42 ~~activities of this committee at least annually and will provide additional reports to the~~  
43 ~~Senate and the Senate Executive Committee as requested.~~

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

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