

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

SP.24.10 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP) during the 2023-2024 academic year. SP held nine meetings during the fall 2023 semester (August 22, September 5, September 19, October 3, October 17, October 31, November 14, November 28, December 12) and eight meetings during the spring 2024 semester (January 16, January 30, February 13, February 27, March 5, March 19, March 26, April 9). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS APPROVED BY SENATE

SP.22.01, Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83)

Continuing work from the previous two years, SP completed its review of ST-83, a proposed revision to the *Statutes* received from the University Senates Conference (USC) in September 2021. Based on input received and internal examination, SP proposed to the Senate a recommendation to fully reject ST-83. The proposal was approved by SP on 03/19/2024 and approved by the Senate on 04/01/2024. The Urbana Senate's response was then transmitted to USC on 04/03/2024.

SP.23.08, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.2 – Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure

The Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AF) proposed a revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.2 to designate AF as the committee specified by the Senate to consult with the Chancellor on procedures for cases involving severe sanctions other than dismissal for cause for members of the faculty under the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 6. The proposal was approved by SP on 05/02/2023 and approved by the Senate on 09/18/2023.

SP.23.09, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 6b – Severe Sanctions Other Than Dismissal for Cause for Members of the Faculty

The proposed revision would designate the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, rather than a committee identified by the Senate, as the committee to consult with the Provost on procedures for cases involving severe sanctions other than dismissal for cause for members of the faculty under the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 6b. The proposal was approved by SP on 04/18/2023 and approved by the Senate on 09/18/2023.

SP.23.14, Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article III – Academic Professional Representation

In March 2023, the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials transmitted a revision to the *Constitution*, Article III to revise the academic professional electorate. The proposal was approved by SP on 09/19/2023, by the Senate on 11/13/2023, and by the Board of Trustees on 03/28/2024.

SP.24.01, Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article IV – Student Representation

In August 2023, the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials transmitted a revision to the *Constitution*, Article IV to revise the student electorate. The proposal was approved by SP on 11/28/2023, by the Senate on 02/05/2024, and by the Board of Trustees on 03/28/2024.

SP.24.02, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part E.4 – Joint Advisory Committee on Investment, Licensing, and Naming Rights

Following a revision to the *Statutes* to draw a distinction between renaming of units due to changes in academic organization and renaming that would only add an eponym to the name of the unit, a revision to the *Bylaws* was proposed to delegate the eponymic renaming to the Joint Advisory Committee on Investment, Licensing, and Naming Rights. The proposal was approved by SP on 01/30/2024 and approved by the Senate on 03/04/2024.

SP.24.03, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part F – General Provisions (OMA designee)

To comply with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) requirement to designate employees, officers, or members to receive training on compliance with OMA, a *Bylaws* revision was proposed to designate the full-time employees who support the Senate and its standing and *ad hoc* committees to receive training on compliance with OMA. The proposal was approved by SP on 09/19/2023 and approved by the Senate on 10/16/2023.

SP.24.04, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part F.7 – Electronic Participation in Meetings of the Senate and its Committees

Following a revision to the *Constitution* and *Bylaws* to specify certain forms of electronic participation, consistent with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA), a revision to the *Bylaws* was proposed to allow remote participation in both the Senate and its committees. The proposal was approved by SP on 11/28/2023 and approved by the Senate on 12/04/2023.

SP.24.05, Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article I, Section 5 and the *Bylaws*, Part A (quorum)

Revisions to the *Constitution* and *Bylaws* were proposed to relocate the quorum provision from the *Constitution* to the *Bylaws* to be in line with Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (12th ed.) and with the UIC and UIS Senates. The proposal was approved by SP on 10/31/2023, by the Senate on 12/04/2023, and by the Board of Trustees on 01/18/2024.

SP.24.06, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.9 – Committee on Elections and Credentials (membership)

The Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials proposed a revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.9 to add a new *ex officio* member, Advisor to the Campus Student Elections Commission (CSEC). The proposal was approved by SP on 01/16/2024 and approved by the Senate on 02/05/2024.

SP.24.08, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.8 – Committee on Educational Policy (membership)

The Senate Committee on Educational Policy proposed a revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.8 to remove one *ex officio* member, Assistant Provost for Educational Innovation, and add two new *ex officio* members, Director for General Education and Chair of the General Education Board. The proposal was approved by SP on 03/05/2024 and approved by the Senate on 04/01/2024.

II. ITEMS SCHEDULED TO BE APPROVED BY THE SENATE ON APRIL 22, 2024

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

In December 2023, the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) transmitted a recommendation and materials toward the creation of a standing Senate Committee on Research Policy, which had been under study by SEC since 2021. Those materials included a brief history of a prior attempt in the 1990s-2000s to form a standing committee of the Senate focused on research policy, which led to an advisory Research Policy Committee, currently included in the Senate's *Bylaws* E.8. SP discussed the proposed language transmitted by SEC, reorienting the proposed Committee on Research Policy's duties around the "research interests of the faculty, students, and staff," and adjusting the proposed composition of the committee after consulting with the Senate Committee on Committees. SP will present the proposed revision to the *Bylaws* on April 22, 2024 for approval by the Senate.

III. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

SP.23.12, Discussion of Senate Committee Representation

In February 2023, the Council of Academic Professionals transmitted an initial proposal to SP containing a framework that would alter the composition of ten Senate committees by expanding the number of academic professionals and including, for the first time, civil-service staff. The scope of these potential changes will require Senate discussion and, if pursued, the coordination of many Senate committees. As such, SP.23.12 was referred to the Senate Executive Committee for discussion and future action.

SP.24.09, Call for Volunteers to Serve as 2024-2025 Parliamentarians

This has been accomplished. The parliamentarians are William Maher and Zach Reed.

IV. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

SP.23.02, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 1 – Tenure of Academic Staff; Article X, Section 2c – Termination of Tenure

A member of SP initiated a discussion of potential changes to the *Statutes*, Article X. These will continue to be considered by SP and referred to subject matter authorities, such as the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, as appropriate, before any further action.

SP.23.10, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.1.d – Senate Executive Committee; Part D.8.e – Committee on Educational Policy; and Part D.19 – Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (Chair Compensation)

During the 2019-20 academic year, SP considered changes to the *Bylaws*, Part D.19 that govern the work of SP. The proposed revisions, approved by the Senate as SP.20.08 on February 10, 2020, better aligned the *Bylaws* language with the committee's responsibilities.

In the process of developing SP.20.08, SP also proposed that the chair of SP be compensated for their work, analogous to the compensation afforded to the chairs of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EP). SEC requested that compensation component be removed from SP.20.08 for further discussion as SC.20.12. Following nearly three years of discussion, SC.20.12 was returned to SP in January 2023, including proposed revisions to Parts D.1, D.8, and D.19 that would redefine the compensation of the chairs of SEC, EP, and SP. SP will continue to discuss this proposal during the 2024-2025 academic year.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

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