

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**

Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures
(Final; Action)

SP.10.04 Revision to the *Statutes*, Article I, Section 2 – The President of the University

BACKGROUND

According to *Statutes* Article XIII, Section 8.b, proposals for amendments to the *Statutes* initiated by the Board of Trustees may not be finally adopted without first securing the advice of the president, the senates, and the University Senates Conference. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Interim President Stanley O. Ikenberry has requested that the word “executive” be inserted into the first sentence of Article I, Section 2 of the *Statutes*. This would change the sentence from “The president is the chief officer of the University and a member of the faculty of each college, school, institute, division, and academic unit therein.” to “The president is the chief executive officer of the University and a member of the faculty of each college, school, institute, division, and academic unit therein.”

In his December 15, 2009 letter to the UIUC Senate Chair, President Ikenberry stated: “The purpose of this proposed amendment is to clarify the roles of the president of the University and the campus chancellors. This recommended amendment is intended to dispel any implication that the president’s role is anything less than the chief executive officer of the University. As chief executive officer, the president is responsible and accountable to the Board of Trustees for the faithful execution of the policies of the Board. The chancellors in turn perform such duties as may be delegated and assigned by the president, consistent with the *Statutes* and *The General Rules*.” President Ikenberry noted that prompt consideration of the amendment is important relative to the pending search for a president.

The University Statutes and Senate Procedures Committee (USSP) has researched the sentence in question, and it discovered that from the first issuance of the *Statutes* in 1868 until the 1954-1957 major revision of the *Statutes* the sentence in question included the word “executive” in the place now identified for insertion. Archival research discovered that the first appearance of the sentence without the word “executive” seems to have been an April 4, 1955 report by the Senate Committee on the Revision of the University *Statutes*. That report presented to the Senate a number of changes to several sections of the *Statutes* including the section (then called simply “Section 2”) defining the authority and duties of the President. While other changes to Section 2, and many other Sections of the *Statutes* were explained in the Committee’s background document, no explanation was offered on the deletion of the word “executive.” The Archives now contain at least 3,000 pages of background documents, drafts, and memoranda on the many changes made to the *Statutes* at this time between the presidencies of George D. Stoddard and David D. Henry, but USSP has yet to find any document explaining the deletion of the word “executive.” Accordingly, USSP concludes that there appears to be no historical reason that the justification currently presented by President Ikenberry cannot be regarded as a fully sufficient justification for changing the *Statutes* at this important time while the University seeks a new President. USSP recommends that the Urbana-Champaign Senate vote to indicate its approval of this change to the *Statutes*.

RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revision to the *Statutes*. Text to be added is underscored.

PROPOSED REVISION TO THE *STATUTES*, ARTICLE I, SECTION 2

Section 2. The President of the University

The president is the chief executive officer of the University and a member of the faculty of each college, school, institute, division, and academic unit therein. The president shall be elected by the Board of Trustees, and the president's term of office shall be at the pleasure of the board. The president shall attend the meetings of the board and participate in its deliberations; may act with freedom within the lines of general policy approved by the board; shall prepare the annual budgets for presentation to the board; and shall recommend to the board suitable persons for positions in the University, including appointments to appropriate administrative positions, other than academic, which are not provided for in the Statutes. In case of exigencies, it is within the proper jurisdiction of the president to make appointments so that the work of the University shall not be interrupted, but such appointments shall be subject to confirmation by the board. The president is responsible for the enforcement of the rules and regulations of the University; shall make such recommendations to the board and to the senates as the president may deem desirable for the proper conduct and development of the University; and shall issue diplomas conferring degrees, but only on the recommendation of the appropriate senate and by authority of the Board of Trustees. The president may designate the administrative officer(s) who shall exercise the functions of the president during the absence of the president from duty, which designation(s) shall be subject to change by the Board of Trustees.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

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