

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

University Statutes and Senate Procedures
(Final; Action)

SP.14.05 Proposed Revisions to the *Bylaws*, Part D.12 – Committee on Honorary Degrees

BACKGROUND

At the March 4, 2013 Senate meeting, the Senate went into Executive Session, as per its standing practice, to consider a nomination for an honorary degree. Subsequently, the use of an Executive Session was called into question as not being consistent with those exceptions allowed to close public meetings as outlined in Section 2 (c) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/). See the following URL: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=84&chapterID=2> After Public Affairs examined the matter, it released, to local news media, an audio recording of the Senate’s discussion of the honorary degree nomination.

RECOMMENDATION

Because the Senate has a record of working for openness and consistency with the Open Meetings Act and to avoid potential confusion, the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures hereby recommends that the *Bylaws* be amended to remove the reference to “executive session” from the provisions for the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees.

Text to be deleted is marked by ~~strikeout~~ (e.g. ~~sample text for deletion~~).

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE *BYLAWS*, PART D.12

- 1 12. Committee on Honorary Degrees
2
3 (a) Duties
4
5 The Committee shall initiate and review nominations for honorary degrees and make
6 recommendations to the Senate ~~in executive session~~.
7
8 (b) Candidate selection criteria
9 The prime, controlling consideration for an honorary degree should be distinction. The
10 nominee should have made a distinguished contribution in the relevant field of endeavor,
11 and should have shown sustained activity of uncommon merit. The contributions may be
12 made in a wide range of activities, including, but not limited to:
- 13 • Scholarship, in any discipline: major breakthroughs in knowledge in fields of scholarly
14 work.
 - 15 • Creative Arts, in the broad sense of the term: literature, music, architecture,
16 engineering, science, etc.; the development of new frontiers of creativity.

- 17 • Professions: distinguished contributions, innovative work of distinction.
18 • Public Service: outstanding achievement in statesmanship, administration, legislative
19 activity, the judiciary, non-governmental civic activity.
20 • Business, Industry, Labor: outstanding, innovative activity.

21 (c) Membership

22
23 The Committee shall consist of:

- 24
25 1. Five faculty members, and
26 2. Two students.

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UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

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