

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

University Statutes and Senate Procedures
(Final; Action)

SP.16.09 Revisions to the *Bylaws and Standing Rules* – Committee on Elections and Credentials

BACKGROUND

As the committee structure of the Senate was originally organized, there was a Committee on Elections and Credentials (EC), charged with supervising the apportionment and election of senators of both the faculty and student electorates. In 1995, the Fourth Senate Review Commission (SRC) proposed that this committee be combined with the Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP), arguing that the duties of the EC Committee had become very routine and undemanding. The SRC also argued that the Senate had too many committees, and should reduce their number. The Senate approved the merger of EC and USSP on January 29, 1996, SP.95.04.

For the past several years, USSP has had a very heavy workload of proposals to amend the documents which are its primary responsibility, i.e., the *University Statutes*, the *Senate Constitution*, and the *Bylaws*. But the committee has also noted the need for work on the *Senate Election Rules* and on senate seat allocations, and has had very little time to study any but the most pressing matters. There is simply too much work for one committee.

USSP therefore proposes to recreate the Committee on Elections and Credentials, giving it essentially the same duties as previously, but with the additional responsibility of election oversight for the Other Academic Staff electorate. These duties will be removed from the charge to USSP. This revision also involves changing appropriate references in the *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules* to refer to the EC Committee instead of USSP.

The text concerning the recreated committee begins on line 64.

RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends that the Senate approve the following amendments to the *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules*. Text to be added is underscored and text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~:

- 1 *Bylaws*
- 2
- 3 **Part C. Elections**
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- 5 1. Timing of Elections; Election Rules
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7 a. Elections of senators shall take place during the spring semester, but not later than the
8 eighth week of classes.

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10 b. The Senate may delegate to the organization that conducts elections on behalf of the
11 governing organizations of the student body and/or the Other Academic Staff the
12 authority to conduct Senate elections concurrently with other elections that it administers,
13 pursuant to rules established by the Committee on ~~University Statutes and Senate~~
14 ~~Procedures~~ Elections and Credentials and subject to approval by the Senate.

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16 c. The Committee on ~~University Statutes and Senate Procedures~~ Elections and
17 Credentials shall establish Election Rules and Procedures, subject to approval by the
18 Senate, by which all these elections shall be held.

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20 2. Elections and Credentials Committee

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22 a. Faculty and Students: Each college or other analogous educational division shall
23 establish an elections and credentials committee to assist the Senate Committee on
24 ~~University Statutes and Senate Procedures~~ Elections and Credentials in the conduct of
25 nominations and elections of senators in that college or division.

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27 b. Other Academic Staff: The Senate Committee on ~~University Statutes and Senate~~
28 ~~Procedures~~ Elections and Credentials shall act as the elections and credentials committee
29 for the Other Academic Staff described in the Constitution, Article III, Section 1a, b, and
30 c. The Council of Academic Professionals shall be the elections and credentials
31 committee for the Other Academic Staff described in the Constitution, Article III, Section
32 1d.

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34 c. The Senate Committee on ~~University Statutes and Senate Procedures~~ Elections and
35 Credentials may delegate to the elections and credentials committees in 2a and 2b such
36 functions as it deems appropriate. Actions of these committees shall be subject to review
37 by the Senate Committee on ~~University Statutes and Senate Procedures~~ Elections and
38 Credentials.

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40 3. Joint Affiliation

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42 A member of the electorate who is affiliated with two or more voting units may vote in
43 and be elected from only one such unit, and shall designate the unit of choice in a signed
44 statement submitted to the Committee on ~~University Statutes and Senate Procedures~~
45 Elections and Credentials. Such designation shall remain in effect until such time as a
46 change is approved by the Committee.

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48 6. Vacancies

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50 When a seat becomes vacant, it shall be filled in accordance with procedures established
51 by the Senate Committee on ~~University Statutes and Senate Procedures~~ Elections and
52 Credentials.

53
54 7. Recall Elections

56 Result: The result of the recall election shall be promptly reported to the Committee on
57 ~~University Statutes and Senate Procedures~~ Elections and Credentials and by it to the
58 Senate at its next regular meeting. When the report is accepted by the Senate, the seat of a
59 recalled senator shall be declared vacant and the senator's name shall be forthwith
60 removed from the list of members of the Senate.

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62 **Part D. Standing Committees**

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64 9. Committee on Elections and Credentials

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66 a. Duties

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68 The Committee shall be responsible for the overall supervision and conduct of all nominations
69 and elections of senators, including: determination of faculty voting units and of student election
70 units; allocation of senatorial seats among faculty voting units and among student election units;
71 ruling on questions of eligibility and interpretation of election rules; generally ensuring that
72 nominations and elections are conducted in accordance with rules and procedures that it shall
73 devise; and certifying election results.

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75 b. Membership

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77 The Committee shall consist of:

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79 1. Five faculty members;
80 2. One academic professional member;
81 3. Two student members;
82 4. The Clerk of the Senate or the Clerk's designee (*ex officio*);
83 5. The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs or the Vice Chancellor's designee (*ex officio*);
84 6. The Provost or the Provost's designee (*ex officio*);
85 7. The Chair of the organization which conducts student elections on behalf of the
86 governing organization of the student body, or the Chair's designee (*ex officio*), should
87 the Senate exercise the option of delegating the student Senate election process to the
88 organization conducting student elections.

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90 [Existing sections 9 and following are renumbered 10 and following.]

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92 ~~18.~~ 19. Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures

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94 a. Duties

95
96 The Committee shall:

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98 ~~6. Supervise and conduct all nominations and elections of senators, including: determination of~~
99 ~~faculty voting units and of student election units; allocation of senatorial seats among faculty~~
100 ~~voting units and among student election units; ruling on questions of eligibility; generally~~
101 ~~ensuring that nominations and elections are conducted in accordance with rules and procedures~~
102 ~~that it shall devise; and certifying election results.~~

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104 ***Standing Rules***

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2. Petitions to Obtain Expressions of Opinion from the Faculty Electorate

A petition purporting to contain the signatures of at least 200 members of the faculty electorate and requiring the Senate to present a question to and obtain an expression of opinion from the faculty electorate under Article VI, Section 1 of the Constitution and Part G, paragraph 1 of the Bylaws shall be delivered to the Clerk of the Senate. The Clerk shall refer it to the Senate Executive Committee and to the Committee on ~~University Statutes and Senate Procedures~~ Elections and Credentials. The Committee on ~~University Statutes and Senate Procedures~~ Elections and Credentials shall determine whether the petition does in fact contain the signatures of at least 200 members of the faculty electorate and shall report to the Senate Executive Committee. If the number of valid signatures is found to be fewer than 200, the petition shall be returned to the petitioners. If the number of valid signatures is found to be sufficient, the Senate Executive Committee shall then recommend to the Senate the formulation of the question to be presented to the faculty electorate, the procedures for obtaining the expression of opinion, and whether a general meeting of the faculty electorate should be called to discuss the question prior to conducting the poll. The Executive Committee's report to the Senate shall include the exact language of the petition delivered to the Clerk of the Senate.

5. Open Meetings Regulations

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3. Accreditation of a news medium and of two representatives of each such accredited medium may be gained by application to the Clerk of the Senate, who will issue Press Cards. Both types of accreditation are subject to review by the Committee on ~~University Statutes and Senate Procedures~~ Elections and Credentials.

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