

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

University Statutes and Senate Procedures  
(Final; Action)

SP.16.11 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.2 – Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure

**BACKGROUND**

As a follow-up to Office of the Provost Communication No. 25, “Employment Guidelines for Specialized Faculty Holding Non-Tenure System Positions”, the University Statutes and Senate Procedures Committee was contacted by the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AFT) with a request to propose a revision to the rules governing the way in which the AFT is constituted.

At a general level, Provost Communication No. 25, Part IV- Grievances allows that “specialized faculty members may have access to campus grievance policies and committees if the complaint or issue falls within the jurisdiction of the committee”.

More specifically, *University Statutes*, Article X, Section 2d reads:

A staff member who believes that he or she does not enjoy the academic freedom which it is the policy of the University to maintain and encourage shall be entitled to a hearing on written request before the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure of the appropriate campus senate. Such hearing shall be conducted in accordance with established rules of procedure. The committee shall make findings of facts and recommendations to the president and, at its discretion, may make an appropriate report to the senate. The several committees may from time to time establish their own rules of procedure.

“Academic staff” is defined in *University Statutes*, Article IX, Section 4a as:

The academic staff which conducts the educational program shall consist of the teaching, research, scientific, counseling, and extension staffs; deans and directors of colleges, schools, institutes, and similar campus units; editors, librarians, and such other members of the staff as are designated by the president and the chancellors/vice presidents.

Although specialized faculty members have access to the grievance process and the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, they currently are not guaranteed representation on AFT.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revisions to the *Bylaws*, Part D.2. Text to be added is underscored and text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~.

**PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE BYLAWS, PART D.2**

1 **Part D – Standing Committees**

2  
3 **2. Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure**

4  
5 a. Duties

6 The Committee shall:

7  
8 Serve as an authorized ~~faculty~~ group to safeguard the academic freedom of the tenure  
9 system and non-tenure system faculty and tenure status of the tenure system faculty, and  
10 to assure that unit governance is in accord with the *University Statutes* and unit bylaws.  
11 The Committee shall conduct hearings in cases involving dismissal of ~~tenured~~ said  
12 faculty, as provided in the *University Statutes*, may investigate instances of possible  
13 infringement of academic freedom and hear cases involving allegations of such  
14 infringement, and may make such recommendations to the Chancellor and reports to the  
15 Senate as are appropriate. The Committee may investigate allegations of violations of the  
16 role of tenure and non-tenure system faculty in governance as specified in the *University*  
17 *Statutes* and unit bylaws and report to the Chancellor and the Senate if appropriate  
18 changes are not made. The Committee will respect the autonomy of individual units when  
19 making any recommendations regarding governance.  
20

21 b. Membership

22 The committee shall consist of:

- 23  
24 1. Seven tenure system faculty members whose administrative duties are below the level  
25 of deans and directors, with no two members from any one college, school, institute,  
26 or similar unit, and one non-tenure system faculty member; and  
27  
28 2. Three students, of whom at least one shall be an undergraduate and at least one shall  
29 be a graduate or professional student.  
30

31 ~~provided, however, that w~~When the Committee is called to serve as a hearing committee  
32 under Article X, Section 1(e) ~~and~~ or Section 2 of the *University Statutes* on a case  
33 involving a tenure system faculty member, the non-tenure system faculty member and  
34 student members shall not participate in its activities or deliberations and shall not be  
35 counted as Committee members for determining the quorum. When the Committee is  
36 called to serve as a hearing committee under Article IX, Section 12 or Article X, Section  
37 2(d) of the University Statutes on a case involving a non-tenure system faculty member,  
38 the student members shall not participate in its activities or deliberations and shall not be  
39 counted as Committee members for determining the quorum.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE

PROCEDURES

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