

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

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

SP.18.14 Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4 – Changes in Existing  
Units

**BACKGROUND**

Article VIII of the *University Statutes* governs changes in the organization of academic units. In the tradition of shared governance, it includes faculty, Senate, and the administration in the approval processes around such changes. This article was first formulated in the 1950s, revised in the early 1980s, and revised most recently in 2011. With those refinements, Article VIII provisions promised to serve both academic, administrative, and governance needs.

However, it has become clear that the current language did not anticipate the need to change the names of academic units to recognize financial donors or honor distinguished individuals. This gap in the *Statutes* has led to somewhat conflicting guidance in the *General Rules* and Campus Administrative Manual, as well as to differing understandings of the lines of consultation required in various types of renaming. The proposed language below specifies and separates the renaming of units into two cases: (1) those reflecting a change in the organization of a unit, and (2) those meant to recognize financial donors or honor distinguished individuals. In the first case, this revision states more clearly the current statutory logic for instances of renaming tied to organization or disciplinary change. In the second case, this revision spells out a streamlined path for the approval of the eponymous naming of academic units, while maintaining input from the faculty and the Senate in the process.

This set of proposed changes has been developed concurrently with discussions between representatives from the Senate Committees on University Statutes and Senate Procedures, General University Policy, and the Joint Advisory Committee on Investment, Licensing, and Naming Rights, meeting over the last year with the Office of the Provost, University Counsel, the University Foundation, and others. The administration has developed interim procedures, set out in the Campus Administrative Manual, to attempt to honor the logic presented here. Should this set of revisions ultimately be approved by the Board of Trustees, other modifications will be necessary to other policy documents to ensure that this process is consistently expressed across our governing documents.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revisions to the *Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4.

Text to be added is underscored and text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~.

**PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE *STATUTES*, ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 4**

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**ARTICLE VIII. CHANGES IN ACADEMIC ~~ORGANIZATION~~ UNITS**

4 **Section 4. Changes in the Organization and Naming of Existing Units**

5 a. From time to time, circumstances will favor changes in academic organization such as  
6 the termination, separation, transfer, merger, or change in status (e.g., department to  
7 school), ~~or renaming~~ of the academic units specified in Section 4.3. The procedures for  
8 the various changes shall be the same as those specified for formation of such a unit,  
9 except that the proposal may originate in the unit(s) or at any higher administrative  
10 level. The advice of each unit involved shall be taken and recorded by vote of the  
11 faculty by secret written ballot in accordance with the bylaws of that unit. For transfer,  
12 merger, separation, and change in status, the procedures shall be those applicable to the  
13 type of unit which would result. Units affected may communicate with the Board of  
14 Trustees in accordance with Article XIII, Section 4, of these *Statutes*.

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16 b. Academic Units specified in Section 3 may be renamed in either of two ways:

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18 (1) If the renaming is related to a change in academic organization (as in Section 4.a) or  
19 changes in a discipline or its terminology (e.g., a shift from “communications” to  
20 “media” or from “commerce” to “business”), the procedures shall be the same as those  
21 specified for formation of such a unit, except that the proposal may originate in the  
22 unit(s) or at any higher administrative level. The advice of each unit involved shall be  
23 taken and recorded by vote of the faculty by secret written ballot in accordance with the  
24 bylaws of that unit.

25  
26 (2) If the renaming involves only the addition of an eponym (e.g., the name of an  
27 alumnus, donor, person, or entity) the proposal may originate in the unit or at any higher  
28 administrative level. The advice of the unit to be renamed shall be taken and recorded  
29 by vote of the faculty by secret written ballot in accordance with the bylaws of that unit,  
30 and the advice by vote of the appropriate senate shall be taken.  
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UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES  
Shawn Gilmore, Chair  
H. George Friedman  
Donald Hackmann  
Saanil Joshi  
William Maher  
Dorothee Schneider  
Nicholas Sheperd  
Jeffrey Stein  
Jessica Mette, *Ex officio (designee)*  
Jenny Roether, *Ex officio*