

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**  
Committee on Committees  
(Final; Action)

CC.20.02 Election of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Chair

**BACKGROUND**

The Senate Executive Committee shall initiate and guide the work of the Senate, prepare the agenda for Senate meetings, coordinate and evaluate the activities of the Senate committees, nominate members of the Committee on Committees, provide advice annually to the Chancellor on the appointment or reappointment of the vice chancellors, provide advice annually to the President on the reappointment of the Chancellor, review Campus Budget Oversight Committee, Research Board, and Research Policy Committee nominees, and perform such other duties as the *Statutes* or Senate shall specify.

The Senate Executive Committee shall be composed of 16 members, including the Chair and a Vice-Chair, elected by ballot by and from among the membership of the Senate, and who shall be the presiding officers of the Senate Executive Committee. Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Executive Committee shall be made by the Committee on Committees.

**NOMINATIONS**

The Committee on Committees nominates the following senators for a one-year term as Chair of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) ending in 2020. Nominees are listed in randomized order and a statement of interest and experience for each nominee is listed below. Each voter may cast one vote. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

Robin Kar	(Professor, LAW)
John Bambenek	(Graduate Student, GRAD)

**COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES**

Nancy O'Brien, Chair  
Roy Campbell  
Audrey Dombro  
Joseph Edwards  
Tim Flanagan  
Lilya Kaganovsky  
Jennifer Monson  
Deniz Namik  
Christopher Span  
Jenny Roether, *ex officio*

*All nominations submitted from the Senate floor must include 1) Nominee's name, 2) Nominee's statement of willingness to serve, and 3) a 200 words or less statement of interest and experience. Nominees must be a senator at the time their term begins. Nominations from the floor can be presented solely in printed form, in the same manner as the slate brought forward by Committee on Committees.*

## **STATEMENTS OF INTEREST AND EXPERIENCE**

### **Robin Kar (Professor, LAW, College of Law)**

Professor Kar is a Professor of Law, with a joint appointment in Philosophy. He has a BA, in philosophy (with a minor in physics) magna cum laude (Harvard); a JD from Yale Law School; and PhD in Philosophy (University of Michigan). He clerked for the Honorable Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

As 2018-2019 Vice-Chair, Professor Kar sought to empower faculty by guiding their engagement and representation in broader campus efforts. As Chair, he would continue those efforts and work for a more effectual Senate role in shared governance.

He currently chairs the task force to reevaluate methods of handling sexual harassment by faculty. He was an integral part of the campus and system-wide task forces that developed official comments and objections to the Department of Education's proposed Title IX regulations. He has participated in the naming rights working group, among many other campus governance initiatives.

His interdisciplinary scholarship easily crosses the North/South Campus divide. Areas of expertise include the evolution of morality; the prehistory of social complexity; religious tolerance; race in the genomic age; theories of contract; history of same-sex marriage law; and the impact of the digital world on traditional systems of private ordering.

### **John Bambenek (Graduate Student, GRAD, Informatics)**

In recent years, there have been a few incidents of violations of student safety whether by sexual harassment, unwanted physical contact, or illegal video recording in a University bathroom. In each case, the response for the University was, to say the least, uninspiring. In two recent cases involving faculty members, there was no substantive penalty despite clear violations of both university policy and apparently of Illinois criminal law. Illinois cannot remain a world-class public research institution while simultaneously allowing faculty-staff misconduct and attacks against students to go without an effective disciplinary response. I have previously served on the Illinois Community College Board and Illinois Board of Higher Education.

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