

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICY  
(Final; Information)

GP.20.11 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on General University Policy

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GP) during the 2019-2020 academic year. GP met on September 5, October 10, November 7, December 5, January 30, February 27, April 2, and April 23. More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

**I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**

**GP.18.04, Senate Statement on Course Materials; Intellectual Property Rights and Professional Responsibility**

GP drafted guidelines on faculty IP rights over syllabus content; when and for what purposes they can be collected by units; what syllabus content and/or format can be mandated by units; and even whether faculty can be required to have a syllabus at all. These guidelines are now posted on the Office of the Senate website, the Office of the Provost website, and will be added to the Faculty Policy Guide.

**GP.19.03, Resolution to Protect Instructors from Classroom Disruption**

In response to a Senate resolution to allow faculty to ban troublesome students from classes, GP proposed an alternative resolution to collect and organize existing policies that allow faculty to regulate their classrooms, and to gather those policies all in one place rather than propose new policies. "Responding to Disruptive or Threatening Student Behavior: A Guide for Faculty and Staff" can be found on the Office of the Provost website (see under Education & Instruction).

**GP.19.09, Discussion of Provost Communication #27: Shared Governance for Academic Units**

GP provided advice about how to familiarize new unit heads with their shared governance responsibilities, and about how to include a review of unit shared governance practices as part of future program reviews.

**GP.20.01, Review of the *Bylaws*, Part D.12 – General University Policy**

In response to the Report of the Eighth Senate Review Commission (XSR.19.01), GP examined its charge and composition as provided by the *Bylaws*, Part D.12. GP recommended revisions to more clearly define the committee's scope, including responsibilities referred to GP by the Senate, and codify GP's role of monitoring background checks, multi-year contracts, and the Faculty Policy Guide. GP also recommended the addition of another faculty member to its membership so as to have an odd number of members. A representative from campus Human Resources was also added as an *ex officio*

member. The revisions to the *Bylaws* were approved by the Senate on March 9, 2020 via SP.20.19 (Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.12 – Committee on General University Policy).

**GP.20.04, Review of the Presiding Officer at Senate Meetings**

In response to the Report of the Eighth Senate Review Commission (XSR.19.01), GP discussed the presiding officer at the Senate meetings. GP sent a recommendation to the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures that the chair of the Senate Executive Committee should be the presiding officer at the Senate meetings with the Chancellor (or designee) invited to attend, make an opening statement, and answer questions from senators.

**GP.20.05, Review of the Role of the Senate Executive Committee Chair and Committee Chairs**

GP proposed guidelines and best practices for the role of chair of Senate committees, including the Senate Executive Committee.

**GP.20.06, Policy on Administrative Leave of Faculty**

GP reviewed and gave input on the draft Policy on Administrative Leave of Faculty which outlines the details when a temporary, paid administrative leave of a faculty member is necessary during an investigation or allegations of misconduct. Once finalized, the policy will be included in the Campus Administrative Manual (CAM).

**GP.20.07, Unit Bylaws Template**

Working with the Office of the Provost, GP developed an outline of topics that every department's Bylaws should address. These represent best practices topically; they do not mandate policies for how departments should address those issues.

**GP.20.09, Bias Assessment and Response Teams**

Justin Brown, Associate Dean of Students, met with GP on February 27, 2020 to discuss the current practices for Bias Assessment and Response Teams (BART).

**GP.20.10, Report of the Committee on Faculty Sexual Misconduct**

Rob Kar, Chair of the Committee on Faculty Sexual Misconduct, Danielle Morrison, Director of the Title IX Office and the Title IX and Disability Coordinator, and Sharon Reynolds, Assistant Provost for Administrative Affairs, met with GP on January 30, 2020 to discuss and obtain input on the Report of the Committee on Faculty Sexual Misconduct.

**II. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE**

**GP.15.01, Statement on Administrative Hiring Practices**

GP continues to monitor how these guidelines are implemented by the Office of the Provost. One proposal is to include them as part of Provost Communication #3: Appointments of Faculty, Specialized Faculty, and Academic Professionals.

#### **GP.15.08, Tenure Review**

GP continues to monitor how tenure review cases go under two, three, or four levels of review in different units. These issues will be addressed as part of the larger revision to Provost Communication #3 which will come to GP for review.

#### **GP.17.03, Guidelines on Senate Meetings**

GP sent advice to the Senate Executive Committee and the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures about issues with the conduct of Senate meetings, and will continue to monitor if any of these proposals come forward for implementation.

#### **GP.18.01, Faculty Policy Guide**

The text of this resource was reviewed and updated. This is an annual process.

#### **GP.19.04, Professional Employment Redesign**

Stone provided updates throughout the year on the progress of the Professional Employment Redesign.

#### **GP.20.02, Review of Provost Communication #9: Promotion and Tenure**

A full review of Provost Communication #9: Promotion and Tenure will be done, and GP will be consulted as part of the review.

#### **GP.20.03, Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Articles IX and X – Administrative Leave**

University Counsel is reviewing the *Statutes*, Article IX and X. The suggested revisions will be shared with GP once the review is finished.

#### **GP.20.08, Resolution on Sexual Harassment Reporting**

The Senate Executive Committee referred RS.20.02 (Resolution on Sexual Harassment Reporting) to GP for input. John Bambenek, student senator, met with GP on January 30, 2020 to discuss and obtain input on the resolution.

### **III. ITEMS MONITORED BY THE COMMITTEE**

#### **GP.07.04, Multi-Year Contracts Policy and Implementation**

#### **GP.09.01, Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government Foundation**

#### **GP.13.09, Records and Information Management Communication**

#### **GP.16.02, Criminal Background Check Policy**

#### **GP.16.05, Specialized Faculty: Multi-Year Contracts and Hiring Trends**

#### **GP.19.01, Student Discipline Procedures**

#### GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICY

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