

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND CREDENTIALS
(Final; Action)

EC.20.07 Voting Unit Structure for the Student Electorate

BACKGROUND

The Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials (EC) is charged with annually reviewing the voting unit structure for the student electorate of the Senate. The voting unit structure remains in effect until otherwise determined by EC and approved by the Senate.

The current voting unit structure was last approved by the Senate in February 2016 (SP.16.04). Because several changes have occurred since 2016, EC is proposing a new voting unit structure after consultation with the Campus Student Election Commission (CSEC) and the Illinois Student Government (ISG) Advisor. EC recommends the voting unit structure change from some colleges divided into multiple voting units to every college as a single voting unit with student senators elected from each college at-large.

Student voting units were originally created to represent students by majors/departments similar to the faculty model. However, in a recent poll, ISG student senators were asked if they felt, as senators, they represented their major, their college, or students at-large. The poll results indicated that most students felt they were representing students at-large or students in their college. This supports the proposal for every college to elect student senators at-large rather than by majors grouped into various sub-units of the college.

In 2016, the proposal (SP.16.04) reduced voting units in the College of Fine & Applied Arts from two voting units to voting at-large, Business from three voting units to two, and Engineering from four voting units to three. That proposal discussed challenges in grouping related disciplines into equally sized voting units with disproportionate department enrollment, and the need to continuously analyze the everchanging student enrollment data at the department level to maintain equally-size voting units. The successful move to fewer sub-units within a couple of colleges and the challenges of maintaining smaller voting units is additional support for at-large voting at the college level.

EC, the ISG Advisor, and the CSEC anticipate the proposed change to electing student senators at-large from each college will increase and balance student participation within the colleges and lessen confusion in the voting process.

EC also recommends creating a voting unit for the School of Information Sciences (i-School) now that the i-School is admitting undergraduates, creating a voting unit for the Carle Illinois

College of Medicine, and removal of the voting unit for the UIC College of Medicine because the program is being phased out.

RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials recommends approval of each college voting as a single voting unit with student senators elected from each college at-large.

The current and proposed voting unit structure for the student electorate is detailed in the Appendix.

ELECTIONS AND CREDENTIALS

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APPENDIX

<u>College/Division/School</u>	<u>Current Voting Unit Structure</u>	<u>Proposed Voting Unit Structure</u>
Agr., Cons., & Env. Sciences	At-large	At-large – no change
Applied Health Sciences	At-large	At-large – no change
Business	A – Accountancy/Finance B – Business Admin/Undeclared	At-large
Education	At-large	At-large – no change
Engineering	A – ECE/CS/Undeclared B – Mech/Aero/Ag/Bio C – CEE/IESE/MatSE/NPRE/Physics	At-large
Fine & Applied Arts	At-large	At-large – no change
General Studies	At-large	At-large – no change
Graduate	At-large	At-large – no change
Information Sciences (i-School)	n/a	At-large – create
Media	At-large	At-large – no change
Liberal Arts & Sciences	A – Life Sciences B – Humanities C – Physical Sciences/Math D – Social Sciences	At-large
Social Work	At-large	At-large – no change
Law	At-large	At-large – no change
Medicine (Carle Illinois)	n/a	At-large – create
Medicine (UIC)	At-large	Remove
Veterinary Medicine	At-large	At-large – no change