

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES
(Committee of the Whole Discussion)

SP.21.11 Committee of the Whole Discussion Regarding a Potential Revision to the
Bylaws, Part A.1 – Meetings

BACKGROUND

Responding to Recommendation #3 of the Report of the Eighth Senate Review Commission (XSR.19.01), both the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP) and the Committee on General University Policy (GP) discussed the most appropriate person to preside over Senate meetings. Both committees determined that the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Chair or the Chair's designee should serve as the presiding officer of Senate meetings. SP presented this revision to the *Bylaws*, Part A as SP.20.17, which was passed by the Senate at its November 16, 2020 meeting.

The *Bylaws*, Part A.1 now read:

The Chair of the Senate Executive Committee or the Chair's designee shall preside at Senate meetings. The Chancellor or the Chancellor's designee shall be invited to give remarks and respond to questions from senators, unless the Senate Executive Committee has provided otherwise.

During its deliberations, SP considered an additional possible option for the presiding officer of the Senate: an elected Speaker of the Senate. The Eighth Senate Review Commission noted a Speaker as a potential option, but SP determined that moving to a Speaker model would require some time and attention to the Senate's governing documents. Further, as was noted during the discussion of SP.20.17, a governance model that included a Speaker of the Senate and a SEC Chair might lead to complications unless well-defined.

SP would like the input of the Senate about its interest in the potential creation of such a position, including how such a Speaker might be defined within the Senate's governance structures.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 SP welcomes input on Options A and B below and the following questions:
- 2 • Would you like to see a Speaker of the Senate, whose charge would likely be limited to
- 3 presiding over Senate meetings?

- 4 • What should be the relationship between a Speaker of the Senate and a SEC Chair?
5 • Are there potential problems or concerns with creating such a Speaker position?
6 Do you have any suggestions for a title other than Speaker of the Senate?

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8 SP could pursue one of two options:

- 9 A. Propose no changes to the *Bylaws*, Part A.1, which would keep the SEC Chair in place as
10 the presiding officer of the Senate.
11 B. Explore the creation of a Speaker of the Senate, including identifying changes that might
12 be needed in the Senate’s governance documents and complications that may require
13 further Senate input.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

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