

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**  
COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES  
(Final; Action)

SP.21.11 Proposed Revisions to the *Constitution*, Article VI, Section 7 and the *Bylaws*, Parts A.1-9, B.1-5, and D.1.c.1 (Presiding Officer)

**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 Senate Committee on General University Policy (GP) discussed who should 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 for the business portion of Senate meetings, during which the Senate votes on proposals and receives reports. 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 currently 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; however, 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 gathered input on this matter via a Committee of the Whole discussion by the Senate at its April 26, 2021 meeting. Generally, there was a consensus that the Senate would welcome a proposed Speaker position, provided that such a position was well-defined and integrated into the Senate's governing documents. The proposed changes below would establish a Presiding Officer position, modeled after what is at use in the Chicago Senate.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends the approval of the following revisions to the *Constitution* and the *Bylaws*. The revision to the *Bylaws* will not become effective until the revision to the *Constitution* is approved by the Board

of Trustees. Text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~ and text to be added is underlined. Adoption of amendments to the *Bylaws* requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

**REVISION TO THE *CONSTITUTION*, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 7**

1 Section 7. The Presiding Officer of the Senate shall be a member of the Senate electorate, but  
2 not a current senator, and shall be elected as prescribed in the Senate *Bylaws*. The Presiding  
3 Officer of the Senate shall chair all Senate meetings. In the absence of the Presiding Officer of  
4 the Senate from the chair, the Presiding Officer’s designee shall preside. The Presiding Officer’s  
5 designee must meet the same eligibility criteria as the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer of  
6 the Senate may not make or second motions, participate in debate, or vote on any matter,  
7 except in the event of a tie. In this event, the Presiding Officer of the Senate may cast the  
8 deciding vote, even if the Presiding Officer of the Senate is not a voting member of the Senate.

9

10 **REVISION TO THE *BYLAWS*, PARTS A.1-9, B.1-5, AND D.1.C.1**

11 **Part A - Meetings**

- 12 1. The ~~Chair of the Senate Executive Committee or the Chair’s designee~~ Presiding Officer of  
13 the Senate or the Presiding Officer’s designee shall preside at Senate meetings. The  
14 Chancellor or the Chancellor’s designee shall be invited to give remarks and respond to  
15 questions from senators, unless the Senate Executive Committee has provided  
16 otherwise.
- 17 2. Regular meetings of the Senate shall be held at least six times during the academic year.  
18 Dates and times of such meetings for the next year shall be proposed by the Senate  
19 Executive Committee and approved by the Senate at the last regular meeting of the  
20 academic year.
- 21 3. An agenda for each regular Senate meeting, extensive enough to ~~be descriptive of~~  
22 describe the subject matter of each item included, shall be prepared by the Senate  
23 Executive Committee and sent to all senators at least four days prior to that meeting.  
24 The Clerk of the Senate will release the agenda to the appropriate news media on the  
25 same day it is distributed to the Senate. Items of business submitted to the Senate  
26 Executive Committee by any senator or Senate committee shall be placed on the

27 agenda, provided that such items are submitted in writing prior to preparation and  
28 distribution of the agenda. Matters not included in the agenda may not be presented to  
29 the Senate without concurrence of a majority of the members present and voting. Such  
30 matters may not be acted upon at the meeting in which they are introduced, according  
31 to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

32 4. The minutes of Senate meetings shall be recorded by the Clerk of the Senate and, as  
33 approved or amended by the Senate, shall be the official and permanent record of  
34 Senate action and debate. Copies of the minutes shall be distributed to all members of  
35 the Senate within a reasonable time after each Senate meeting.

36 5. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall  
37 govern the Senate in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not  
38 inconsistent with *Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules* of the Senate, as provided in  
39 the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 5.

40 6.

41 a. One organizational meeting shall be held after the general election of senators  
42 and before the last day of classes. ~~All~~ Newly elected senators, those senators  
43 whose terms extend through the next year, and *ex officio* senators shall be  
44 eligible to participate.

45 b. Prior to this organizational meeting, nominations shall be made for the Chair and  
46 Vice-Chair of the Senate Executive Committee, the Presiding Officer of the  
47 Senate, and ~~for~~ members of the Committee on Committees.

48 c. The nomination and election of the Committee on Committees shall be as stated  
49 in Part D 6 (c) of these *Bylaws*.

50 d.

51 1. Nominations for Executive Committee officers and the Presiding Officer  
52 of the Senate shall be made by the incumbent Committee on  
53 Committees. Nominations may also be made by others and must be  
54 accompanied by consent to serve from the person nominated.

55 Nominations must be received in the Office of the Senate Office prior to

56 the date set by the Senate Executive Committee. The nominations will  
57 clearly distinguish between Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Executive  
58 Committee, and Presiding Officer of the Senate. The nominator shall  
59 provide a brief biographical sketch of each nominee.

60 2. ~~The final~~ elections shall be by separate ballots. ~~The ballots shall be~~  
61 ~~marked clearly to distinguish between the election for Chair and the~~  
62 ~~election for Vice-Chair of the Senate Executive Committee.~~ Each ~~voter~~  
63 senator may cast one vote for each position. ~~The biographical sketches~~  
64 shall be included with the ballots.

65 3. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes for each position  
66 shall be declared elected.

67 e. As soon as the names of the nominees for a new Senate are known, the  
68 incumbent Committee on Committees will commence its work of nominating, as  
69 needed for the coming year, chairs and members of the other standing and *ad*  
70 *hoc* committees of the Senate and the Senate representatives to various other  
71 bodies. The Committee's nominations shall be reported at the organizational  
72 meeting of the new Senate. After nominations from the floor, the Senate shall  
73 hold ~~the~~ elections. At the election meeting, the Senate shall elect three faculty  
74 members of the Senate Executive Committee from among ~~the faculty members~~  
75 those who chair the standing and *ad hoc* committees of the Senate. ~~The~~  
76 ~~s~~Student members of the Senate shall elect the student members of the Senate  
77 Executive Committee before the organizational meeting.

78 f. Certification of election results will be completed by the Clerk of the Senate  
79 entering those results in the minutes of the meeting.

80 g. The incumbent ~~Chair of the Senate Executive Committee or the Chair's~~ Presiding  
81 Officer of the Senate or the Presiding Officer's designee shall preside. The  
82 Chancellor or the Chancellor's designee shall be invited to give remarks, unless  
83 the Senate Executive Committee has provided otherwise.

- 84 7. The Senate shall call an annual meeting of the faculty of the campus to hear reports  
85 from and to question the Senate Executive Committee and the administration. This  
86 meeting shall be presided over by the Presiding Officer of the Senate.
- 87 8. The Senate Executive Committee shall be empowered to call special meetings of the  
88 Senate. At least five days prior to the proposed special meeting, notice of the date, time,  
89 place, and purpose of such a meeting shall be sent to all senators.
- 90 9. If an emergency exists on the campus requiring the convening of the Senate within a  
91 period of time less than the five days necessary for the notice provided above, the  
92 Chancellor or the Chair of the Senate Executive Committee may declare that such an  
93 emergency exists and convene the Senate as soon as may be practicable. The ~~convening~~  
94 ~~officer~~ Presiding Officer shall employ all practical means to notify all senators of the  
95 date, time, place, and purpose of such emergency meeting.

96 [...]

97 **Part B – Senate Committees**

- 98 1. The Senate shall have ~~an executive council, called the~~ a Senate Executive Committee,  
99 and such standing and *ad hoc* committees, with such duties and membership, as the  
100 Senate shall determine.
- 101 2. The committees of the Senate shall identify those issues embodying substantive policy  
102 questions and present them in writing, with committee recommendations, to the  
103 Senate for consideration, in accordance with the procedure of *Bylaw* A-3.
- 104 3. Committee members, and chairs of committees other than the Committee on  
105 Committees, shall be elected by the Senate. Committee chairs must be elected  
106 members of their committees.
- 107 4. *Ex officio* committee members shall not have voting privileges, except where otherwise  
108 expressly provided herein.
- 109 5. The Committee on Committees shall make nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair of the  
110 Senate Executive Committee, the Presiding Officer of the Senate, and for members and  
111 chairs of standing and *ad hoc* committees, except for members of the Committee on  
112 Committees itself. Nominees for faculty and student positions need not necessarily be

113 senators except where otherwise expressly provided herein, but must be members of  
114 the faculty or student electorate of the Urbana-Champaign campus or of the College of  
115 Medicine at Urbana-Champaign. Nominees for academic professional positions must be  
116 members of the Professional Advisory Committee electorate of the Urbana-Champaign  
117 campus or of the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign. A list of those nominated  
118 by the Committee on Committees shall be communicated to all senators in accordance  
119 with the due notice provision of the *Constitution* prior to each election for committee  
120 membership or chair. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Whether  
121 from the Committee on Committees or from the floor, each nomination shall have the  
122 consent of the nominee. After nominations have closed, the Senate shall elect from the  
123 nominees those who are to serve. Ties will be broken by drawing lots.

124 [...]

125 **Part D.1.c.1**

126 k. the Chair of the Council of Academic Professionals, which performs the statutory function of  
127 the Professional Advisory Committee, or the Chair's designee, *ex officio* with vote, ~~and~~  
128 l. the Presiding Officer of the Senate or the Presiding Officer's designee (*ex officio*), and  
129 m. the Chancellor or the Chancellor's designee (*ex officio*).

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

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