

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

GP.23.11 2022-2023 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 2021-2022 academic year. GP met on August 31, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 7, January 25, February 22, March 22, April 12, and May 3. More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS APPROVED BY SENATE

**GP.22.04, Guidelines on Departmental Statements**

GP developed a set of guidelines for departments or other academic units wanting to issue a statement taking a position on a range of different kinds of “political” issues – some directly relating to campus policies and controversies, some related to so-called “extramural” issues. These guidelines were sent to the Senate for review and approval; the Senate referred the proposal to the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure for comment. The guidelines were approved by the Senate on December 5, 2022. Following the Senate meeting, the guidelines were posted on the Office of the Provost website.

**GP.23.05, Resolution in Honor of Professor Bruce Rosenstock**

GP presented a resolution recognizing the contributions of Professor Bruce Rosenstock to the Senate and its committee to the Senate. The resolution was approved by the Senate on February 6, 2023.

II. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

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

These guidelines were developed and approved several years ago. GP had previously worked with Executive Vice Provost Bernhard, Heidi Johnson (Director, Affirmative Action Division, Office for Access & Equity), and Nizam Arain (Associate Vice Chancellor, Office for Access & Equity) to discuss how best to enshrine them in official campus documents. These guidelines were incorporated into Provost Communication #3 and the Academic Professionals and the Office for Access & Equity Recruitment and Hiring Guidelines, so this item was removed from the agenda.

**GP.21.16, Revision to Provost Communication #27: Shared Governance for Academic Units – Unit Bylaws**

GP proposed language that further clarifies the responsibility to post unit bylaws in a manner that is publicly available. GP also discussed whether revisions to unit bylaws need approval from the larger unit in which it is housed. PC #27 was revised along these lines and GP approved the changes.

**GP.23.01, Open Access**

At the November 16 meeting, GP met with John Wilkin, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, to discuss the new review of open access policies.

**GP.23.02, Zoom Access to Meetings and Committee Work**

At the October 19 meeting, GP met with Sean Garrick, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, to discuss a possible policy that states clear criteria for situations when the default is not to offer a Zoom link.

**GP.23.04, Discussion of Provost Communication #9 – Definition of Excellence in Teaching**

GP had a meeting with Amy Ando, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, who headed up these revisions. After that discussion GP chose to take no further action in this area, although individual members might forward their own questions and concerns about the policy; as PC #9 revises the ways in which teaching is evaluated, it is important that the criteria of excellence include factors that comprise all forms of teaching.

**GP.23.06, Discussion of the Policy Governing Electronic Surveys and Questionnaires**

GP reviewed this proposal and provided feedback.

**GP.23.07, Discussion of the Policy on Deactivating Courses**

Minor edits to the document were proposed by GP and have been approved.

**GP.23.08, Proposed Revisions to the University of Illinois System Conflict of Commitment and Interest Policy and Related Policies**

GP reviewed these revisions and offered feedback. Of special concern was the broadened definition of “outside activities,” which could sweep up commitments faculty have that they do not consider to be in conflict with their academic priorities.

**GP.23.09, Discussion of Provost Communication #6: Named Faculty Appointments**

GP provided feedback on two revisions to Provost Communication #6:

- Inclusion of specialized faculty.
- Clarification that an individual can only have one named faculty appointment active at a time.

**GP.23.10, Proposed Revisions to the Policy on Effort and Compensation on Sponsored Projects**

GP received a report on these changes and had no formal action to propose.

### III. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

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

GP is tasked by the Senate with conducting an annual review of the percentage of NTT faculty and staff with multi-year contracts. A campus cap of 15% has long been in place, and for many years the percentage was nowhere near that. Now, as the percentage starts to approach 15%, GP discussed whether the percentage of multiyear contracts is the correct metric to focus on. GP is working with the Provost's office to develop a different annual report that includes other metrics, including demographic data. The overall ratio of tenure system to non-tenure system faculty is more relevant than the number of multi-year contracts. This report was piloted this year and reviewed by GP. This report might also be shared with the full Senate in the fall. Eventually, GP may propose a statutory change lifting the mandatory cap on multi-year contracts.

#### **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. The Provost's office and the Deans are working to move toward a standard of three levels; GP will keep this an open item on our agenda.

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

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

#### **GP.21.01, Intellectual Property in Relation to Course Materials**

GP reviewed and provided feedback on a draft agreement to be signed by faculty when they accept campus support "over and above the usual" to develop a new course. One of GP's main points of concern is that these policies should reflect the IP provisions in the General Rules. From the standpoint of IP, there is no difference between support to develop online or on-campus courses. The current draft agreement is much too long and legalistic. There is a revised version of this proposal being developed, which will be discussed further and then brought back to GP in the fall.

#### **GP.21.11, Guidelines for Faculty Engagement**

GP proposed a set of guidelines for faculty living and working from home, including the possibility of living out of state. After GP began this process, the UI system proposed guidelines for staff doing so, and there is a process to translate those policies into campus policies for faculty. GP will monitor that campus process, and provide feedback as those policies take shape.

#### **GP.22.06, Revision to the Provost Communication #25: Employment Guidelines for Specialized Faculty Holding Non-Tenure System Positions and Provost Communication and #26: Promotion to Teaching, Research or Clinical Associate or Full Professor Titles**

This will be a topic of discussion next year when these PC's are undergoing an extensive revision. Right now, #25b and #26 are not entirely consistent with each other.

**GP.23.03, Course Modality Policy**

This item will carry over to next year.

**IV. ITEMS MONITORED BY THE COMMITTEE**

**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.18.01, Faculty Policy Guide** – GP will revise this next year after the *Statutes* revisions are complete.

**GP.19.01, Student Discipline Procedures**

**GP.19.04, Professional Employment Redesign**

**GP.21.08, Discussion Regarding Title VI and Title VII Compliance**

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICY  
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