

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

SP.23.15 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP) during the 2022-2023 academic year. SP met on August 30, September 13, September 20, October 4, October 18, November 1, November 15, November 29, December 13, January 17, January 31, February 14, February 28, March 21, March 28, April 11, April 18, and May 2. More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS APPROVED BY SENATE

SP.20.07, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part B.11 (Senate Committees), Part E (Governing and Advisory Bodies) and Part F (Senate Representatives to Other Bodies)

Responding to the Report of the Eighth Senate Review Commission (XSR.19.01), SP reviewed the *Bylaws*, Part E and Part F to determine who was responsible for overseeing the duties/charges for each body and the relationship of each body to the Senate. SP proposed a revision to the *Bylaws*, Part B to clarify the relationship of the bodies itemized in Parts E and F to the Senate, further consolidating Parts E and F into one part. The Senate approved the revision to the *Bylaws* on October 10, 2022.

SP.20.25, Proposed Revision to the Senate *Constitution*, Article VI and *Bylaws*, Part F, Providing for Routine and Emergency Electronic Participation in Meetings of the Senate and its Committees

The experience of dealing with the COVID-19 emergency has shown the need for the Senate *Constitution* and *Bylaws* to provide for dealing with such emergencies. Potential revisions included specifying the definition of what situations constitute an emergency (e.g., declaration by the President of the United States, the Governor of Illinois, or the President of the University of Illinois System). It also includes the definition of any powers and authorities delegated to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) or to other Senate committees during such an emergency. Outside of emergencies, the Senate's governing documents need to provide for electronic participation in meetings of the Senate and Senate committees. The Senate approved the revision to the *Constitution* and the *Bylaws* on February 6, 2023.

SP.21.05, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.7 – Conference on Conduct Governance

In the final stages of reviewing SP.20.18, the Conference on Conduct Governance (CG) suggested that it would be clearer and more consistent with Senate nomenclature to

change its name to make its work clearer to outside parties. CG and SP coordinated on a proposal that would rename CG the Council on Student Conduct Expectations and Accountability and better specify the Senate's charge to CG, including a reframing of CG's duties. The Senate approved the revision to the *Bylaws* on February 6, 2023.

SP.22.02, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part A.3 and *Standing Rule 14* – Setting the Agenda for Senate Meetings

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) recommended SP review the *Bylaws*, Part A.3 and *Standing Rule 14*, which direct how business items, including proposals from Senate committees and resolutions from senators, are placed on Senate agendas by SEC. The proposed changes to the *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules* clarify how SEC may act in setting agendas, as well as how sponsors of proposals and resolutions are included in that process. The Senate approved the revision to the *Bylaws* and *Standing Rule 14* on November 14, 2022.

SP.22.03, Proposed Revisions to the *Constitution*, Article VI, Section 9 (Senate review) and the *Bylaws*, Part D.1.a – Senate Executive Committee Duties

Responding to the Report of the Eighth Senate Review Commission (XSR.19.01), the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) recommended adding clarifying language to the directive in the *Constitution* to perform a periodic review of the Senate. The SEC also recommended adding a duty to their portion of the *Bylaws* that would ensure the findings made by the commission performing the periodic review are responded to or implemented in a timely manner. The Senate approved the revision to the *Constitution* and *Bylaws* on November 14, 2022.

SP.23.01, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article IV, Section 3 – Department Organized with a Head

At its March 7, 2022 meeting, the Senate considered SP.19.15, a set of proposed revisions to sections of the *Statutes*, Article IV. SP.19.15 was amended on the floor to remove a restriction that would have constrained the composition of department-level advisory committees, because this provision would have proven untenable for units with large portions of their faculty with appointments under 50%. SP noted at the time that it would continue to consider the issue. The proposed revisions would replace two passages in the *Statutes* with more generalized boundaries for departments regarding the compositions of executive and advisory committees, specifying what provisions units should spell out in the bylaws. This would make the two areas of Article IV (Sections 2b and 3b) more comparable, while allowing units to govern themselves appropriately given their actual compositions. The Senate approved the revision to the *Statutes*, which would amend language previously approved in SP.19.15, on April 24, 2023.

SP.23.07, Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article 1, Section 1

SP proposed a revision to the *Constitution*, Article 1, Section 1 to update the name of the Senate from "Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus" to "University of Illinois Urbana-

Champaign Senate” to be consistent with the change in the *Statutes* from campus to university. The Senate approved the revision to the *Constitution* on March 6, 2023.

SP.23.11, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.10 – Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Senate Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (EQ) proposed a revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.10 to clarify its role in reviewing process, policy, and aggregate data reports provided by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. EQ also proposed the addition of an *ex officio* member from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. The Senate approved the revision to the *Bylaws* on March 6, 2023.

II. ITEMS REPORTED TO THE SENATE

SP.23.06, Potential Revisions to the *Statutes* that Impact Academic Professionals and Governance (as initiated by USC ST-83)

To aid its work on ST-83 (under SP.22.01), SP prepared four documents (SP.23.03, SP.23.04, SP.23.05, and SP.23.06) to prompt input from the Senate on core changes proposed in ST-83. SP.23.06 summarized some potential changes proposed in ST-83 that might impact governance matters, including a response from the Council of Academic Professionals (CAP), which concluded:

CAP recommends that these proposed changes be rejected and asks that future proposals are more balanced and inclusive of all stakeholders involved in the governance of the University.

This item was included as a report for information, prompting some feedback, at the March 6, 2023 Senate meeting. Feedback from that discussion will be incorporated into SP’s work on SP.22.01.

III. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

SP.23.03, Committee of the Whole Discussion Regarding Potential Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II (as initiated by USC ST-83)

To aid its work on ST-83 (under SP.22.01), SP prepared four documents (SP.23.03, SP.23.04, SP.23.05, and SP.23.06) to prompt input from the Senate on core changes proposed in ST-83. SP.23.03 summarized potential changes in ST-83 that would affect Article II of the *Statutes*, including changes to the definitions of “faculty” and “staff,” clearer inclusion of non-tenure-track faculty, and definitions of “administrative” and “academic” work. SP.23.03 also included a draft of potential revisions as a response to ST-83’s proposed changes. The Senate held a Committee of the Whole discussion on this item at its November 14, 2022 meeting. Feedback from that discussion will be incorporated into SP’s work on SP.22.01.

SP.23.04, Committee of the Whole Discussion Regarding Potential Revisions to the Statutes, Articles IX and X (as initiated by USC ST-83)

To aid its work on ST-83 (under SP.22.01), SP prepared four documents (SP.23.03, SP.23.04, SP.23.05, and SP.23.06) to prompt input from the Senate on core changes proposed in ST-83. SP.23.04 summarized potential changes in ST-83 that work restructure Articles IX and X of the *Statutes*, presenting a summary of the new proposed structures for these articles and representing marked materials from the University Senates Conference. The Senate held a Committee of the Whole discussion on this item at its December 5, 2022 meeting. Feedback from that discussion will be incorporated into SP’s work on SP.22.01.

SP.23.05, Committee of the Whole Discussion Regarding the Proposed Elimination of the Category of “Academic Staff” and Proposed Changes to Academic Freedom in the Statutes (as initiated by USC ST-83)

To aid its work on ST-83 (under SP.22.01), SP prepared four documents (SP.23.03, SP.23.04, SP.23.05, and SP.23.06) to prompt input from the Senate on core changes proposed in ST-83. SP.23.05 addressed the proposed elimination of the category of “academic staff” from the *Statutes* and the impacts of this change, including on academic freedom provisions in Article X. This item also included a letter from the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AF), addressing the impact of some of these proposed changes, and highlighted AF’s conclusion:

A change in the scope of application of academic freedom is a matter that requires extensive discussion and consent. [...] The Senate should reject ST-83 because it changes the scope of application of academic freedom...

The Senate held a Committee of the Whole discussion on this item at its December 5, 2022 and February 6, 2023 meetings. Feedback from that discussion will be incorporated into SP’s work on SP.22.01.

SP.23.13, Call for Volunteers to Serve as 2023-2024 Parliamentarians

This has been accomplished. The parliamentarians are Kaamilyah Abdullah-Span and William Maher.

IV. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

SP.22.01, Proposed Revisions to the Statutes (USC ST-83)

The University Senates Conference transmitted a comprehensive package of potential revisions to the University *Statutes* (ST-83) to the senates on September 2, 2021, along with a transmittal letter containing an overview of key changes, and an explanatory document concerning the proposed restructuring of Articles IX and X of the *Statutes*. The Senate Executive Committee promptly directed ST-83 to SP, where it was designated SP.22.01. SP reviewed this package of proposed changes, noting complications from the proposed revisions around the terms “faculty” and “staff” along with the removal of “academic staff”

throughout the *Statutes*. The latter term, “academic staff,” became the basis of the academic freedom language via ST-72, which was approved by the Board of Trustees.

To further examine these issues, SP established a subcommittee to review the major potential changes to Article II of the *Statutes*, and in November 2021 referred portions of the package to three subject matter bodies: the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC), the Council of Academic Professionals (CAP), and the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AF). During the 2021-2022 academic year, SP discussed responses to the many changes proposed in ST-83 and received a response from FAC, indicating no issues with the potential revisions to the areas of the *Statutes* that govern the FAC.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, SP created four prompts for Senate discussion (SP.23.03, SP.23.04, SP.23.05, and SP.23.06, described above), crafted to present some of the major changes proposed in ST-83 to the Senate, report on responses from AF (received October 2022) and CAP (received February 2023), and collect input from the Senate. SP summarized the current state of its work, indicating matters of general consensus and recommending that the Senate continue to deliberate a variety of matters, in a provisional response to ST-83 to be sent to the University Senates Conference, which the Senate approved at its April 24, 2023 meeting.

SP will continue to consider this proposal into the 2023-2024 academic year.

SP.23.02, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 1 – Tenure of Academic Staff; Article X, Section 2c – Termination of Tenure

A member of SP initiated a discussion of potential changes to the *Statutes*, Article X. These will continue to be considered by SP and referred to subject matter authorities, such as the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, as appropriate, before any further action.

SP.23.08, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.2 – Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure

The Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AF) proposed a revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.2 to designate AF as the committee specified by the Senate to consult with the Chancellor on procedures for cases involving severe sanctions other than dismissal for cause for members of the faculty under the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 6. SP will continue to discuss this proposal during the 2023-2024 academic year.

SP.23.09, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 6b – Severe Sanctions Other Than Dismissal for Cause for Members of the Faculty

The proposed revision would designate the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, rather than a committee identified by the senate, as the committee to consult with the Provost on procedures for cases involving severe sanctions other than dismissal for cause for members of the faculty under the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 6b. SP introduced the proposal for a first reading at the April 24, 2023 Senate meeting; the Senate will discuss this proposal during the 2023-2024 academic year.

SP.23.10, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.1.d – Senate Executive Committee; Part D.8.e – Committee on Educational Policy; and Part D.19 – Committee on University *Statutes* and Senate Procedures (Chair Compensation)

During the 2019-20 academic year, SP considered changes to the *Bylaws*, Part D.19 that govern the work of SP. The proposed revisions, approved by the Senate as SP.20.08 on February 10, 2020, better aligned the *Bylaws* language with the committee’s responsibilities.

In the process of developing SP.20.08, SP also proposed that the chair of SP be compensated for their work, in parallel with the compensation afforded to the chairs of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EP). SEC requested that compensation component be removed from SP.20.08 for further discussion as SC.20.12. Following nearly three years of discussion, SC.20.12 was returned to SP in January 2023, including proposed revisions to Parts D.1, D.8, and D.19 that would redefine the compensation of the chairs of SEC, EP, and SP. SP will continue to discuss this proposal during the 2023-2024 academic year.

SP.23.12, Discussion of Senate Committee Representation

In February 2023, the Council of Academic Professionals transmitted an initial proposal to SP containing a scheme that would alter the composition of ten Senate committees, expanding the number of academic professionals on these committees and including for the first time civil-service staff on them. The scope of these potential changes will require Senate discussion, and if pursued, the coordination of many Senate committees. As such, SP.23.12 was referred to the Senate Executive Committee for discussion and future action.

SP.23.14, Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article III – Academic Professional Representation

In March 2023, the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials transmitted a revision to the *Constitution*, Article III to revise the academic professional electorate. SP will continue to discuss this proposed revision during the 2023-2024 academic year.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

Shawn Gilmore, Chair

David Dalpiaz

H. George Friedman

Michael Grossman

Kyle Johnson

Rob Klein

William Maher

Megan Pickens

Kelli Trei

Jessica Mette, *ex officio*

Sharon Reynolds, *ex officio*

Jenny Roether, *ex officio*