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AF.24.03
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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE
(Final; Information)

AF.24.03 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AF) during the 2023-2024 academic year. AF held four meetings during the fall 2023 semester (September 12, October 10, November 7, December 5) and two meetings during the spring 2024 semester (April 2, April 30). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

AF.24.01, Review of the University of Illinois System Code of Conduct

AF reviewed the proposed University of Illinois System Code of Conduct and sent a letter to Jeffrey Jenkins, Chair of the Senate Executive Committee, on December 11, 2023, advising that the proposed code should not be approved by the Senate. Senate approval would create a series of ill-defined grounds for discipline under Article IX, Section 6 (d) 3, whether this is the intent of the code or not. The Senate should approve a code only if (a) it is clearly without such grounds or (b) if the grounds are explicitly spelled out.

AF.24.02, Review of the Proposed Revisions to ST-83

AF reviewed these revisions and came to the conclusion that the Senate should be advised to reject them. AF sent a letter to David Dalpiaz, Chair of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures, on December 6, 2023 advising that the revisions, at least, change the scope of academic freedom protections; that this change had not been discussed in Senate; that this change had not been motivated or justified in the revisions; and that the revisions should be rejected for those reasons alone. AF Chair Forsyth put these positions to the Senate in discussion of these revisions.

II. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

AF.20.03, Review of the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 6 – Severe Sanctions Other Than Dismissal for Cause for Members of the Faculty

The Office of the Provost requested that AF consider the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 6 which governs the imposition of significant sanctions lesser than dismissal. During the 2019-2020 academic year, AF identified three aspects of Article IX that might bear reconsideration.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE

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