

APPROVED BY SENATE

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EC.24.04  
April 22, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND CREDENTIALS  
(Final; Action)

EC.24.04      Revision to the *Senate Election Rules for the Student Electorate*  
Section 5. Conducting Elections and Section 8. Resignations and Vacancies

**BACKGROUND**

The Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials (EC) proposes updating the *Election Rules for the Student Electorate* to correctly specify that the Campus Student Election Commission (CSEC) is organized under the authority of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs as stated in the *Charter of the Campus Student Election Commission*. The current language specifies CSEC is organized under the authority of the Illinois Student Government (ISG) which no longer exists.

EC proposes referring to the officially recognized student governance body more generally in the *Election Rules for the Student Electorate* rather than to the specific name due to the regular renaming of the body. After the most recent reorganization and renaming, the student governance body is named the Illinois Student Council (ISC). Some of the previous names include Illinois Student Government (ISG), Illinois Student Senate (ISS), and Student Government Association (SGA).

EC also proposes referring to the student governance committee tasked with filling vacancies more generally in the *Election Rules for the Student Electorate*. The committee that is currently authorized to fill vacant student seats no longer exists due to the most recent reorganization and renaming. EC proposes tasking the student governance committee responsible for internal operations with developing a vacancy filling process and using that process to fill vacant student seats in the Senate.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials recommends the Senate approve the following revisions to the *Election Rules for the Student Electorate*. Text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~ and text to be added is underlined.

**ELECTION RULES FOR THE STUDENT ELECTORATE, Section 5. Conducting Elections and Section 8. Resignations and Vacancies**

1    **5. Conducting Elections**

- 2        5.1 *Duration of Elections*. The elections of student senators shall be held on two  
3        consecutive weekdays.

4 5.2 ~~Time~~ Timing of Elections.

5 a. Elections for the Colleges of Law, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine shall be  
6 conducted by those colleges at such times as shall be specified by the Senate  
7 Committee on Elections and Credentials.

8 b. ~~The election of Elections for all other student senators shall be held at such times~~  
9 ~~as shall be specified by the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials unless~~  
10 ~~the Senate authorizes the Campus Student Election Commission, established by~~  
11 ~~the Illinois Student Government Constitution organized under the authority of the~~  
12 Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, to conduct the election of student senators  
13 concurrently with ~~the other student elections the Campus Student Election~~  
14 Commission conducts. Such authorization, which does not extend to the Colleges  
15 of Law, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine, must be given by the Senate no later  
16 than the last regularly scheduled meeting of the spring semester for the following  
17 year's elections. Once given, this authorization will remain in force unless it is  
18 rescinded by the Senate; such action must take place no later than the last  
19 regularly scheduled meeting of the spring semester to be effective for the  
20 following year's elections.

21 c. ~~The student~~ Student elections shall be completed no fewer than three weeks prior  
22 to the organizational meeting of the Senate.

23 5.3 *Ties.* Ties shall be resolved by a coin flip or drawing of lots by the body conducting the  
24 election.

25 5.4 *Notification of Winners.* The body conducting the elections is responsible for notifying  
26 the winning candidates as soon as possible after the certification of election results.

27  
28 **8. Resignations and Vacancies**

29 8.1 ~~If no one is elected to a Senate seat from a voting unit during the general election,~~  
30 ~~then the college in which that voting unit resides shall have the option of electing an~~  
31 ~~eligible member of the student electorate to that seat in the fall. Election procedures~~

32 shall be developed by each college elections and credentials committee and shall be  
33 subject to approval by the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials.

34 Vacant Seats. If a student Senate seat remains vacant after the general spring election  
35 or becomes vacant due to a resignation, the student governance committee charged  
36 with internal operations shall fill that vacancy as soon as possible.

37 8.2 Filling Vacancies. A vacant student Senate seat may be filled by appointment by the  
38 Illinois Student Government. In selecting the replacement for a student senator  
39 A process shall be developed by the committee charged above to fill vacancies. This  
40 process shall be approved by the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials, and  
41 shall give priority should be given, in descending order, to:

- 42 a. The first runner-up (if any) in the appropriate voting unit.
- 43 b. The successive runners-up (if any) in the appropriate voting unit.
- 44 c. Candidate(s) selected in a search conducted by the Illinois Student Government's  
45 Standing Committee on Internal Affairs in consultation with the Clerk of the  
46 Senate. In the case of graduate student vacancies, the Committee on Internal  
47 Affairs must seek the advice and consent of the Subcommittee on Graduate and  
48 Professional Student Affairs or of the Senate Committee on Elections and  
49 Credentials, when the former has not been constituted.

50 The candidate(s) selected in the vacancy filling process and approved by the  
51 student governance body.

52 Students selected to fill vacancies shall be promptly reported to the Office of the  
53 Senate.

54 8.3 Disqualification from Electorate. If a senator fails to satisfy the requirements for  
55 membership in the electorate during their term of office, the Senate Committee on  
56 Elections and Credentials shall determine whether the senator may remain seated.

57 8.4 Change of Voting Unit. If a senator changes transfers to a different voting units after  
58 the election, the senator will continue to represent the original voting unit unless the  
59 Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials determines otherwise.

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