

From: [Dalpiaz, David M](#)
To: [Bernhard, William T](#)
Cc: [Chodzko-Zajko, Wojtek](#); [Miller, Franci](#)
Subject: Re: Graduate College Feedback
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 8:36:03 PM

Bill,

Thanks for sending this feedback. I will share with SP tomorrow, and the SEC and Senate soon.

Best,
David

From: Bernhard, William T <bernhard@illinois.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 2:16 PM
To: Dalpiaz, David M <dalpiaz2@illinois.edu>
Cc: Chodzko-Zajko, Wojtek <wojtek@illinois.edu>
Subject: Graduate College Feedback

David,

You asked Dean Chodzko-Zajko to provide feedback from the Graduate College on the proposed revision of the University Statues. Thank you for soliciting this input.

Dean Chodzko-Zajko consulted with his executive committee to develop a response. He shared the document with me and asked that I forward it to you. It is included, unedited, below.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Best,
Bill

William Bernhard
Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Interim Associate Chancellor and Vice Provost for Budget and Resource Planning
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign



Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), any written communication to or from University employees regarding University business is a public record and may be subject to public disclosure.

Dear Professor Dalpiaz,

Thank you for writing on behalf of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP) requesting input on the proposed *University of Illinois Statutes* revisions known as ST-83. The revisions outlined in ST-83 are complex and too detailed to address in detail here. However, we do wish to provide feedback with regard to the issue of academic freedom and how it may be impacted by the ST-83 revision.

Our interpretation of the current *University of Illinois Statutes* is that the broad and encompassing definition of “academic staff” employed in the Statutes appropriately affords the protections and privileges of academic freedom to a wide range of individuals and groups within the academic community of the university.

The term “academic staff”, as defined within the current statutes, includes tenure system and non-tenure system faculty; instructors, senior instructors, lecturers, and senior lecturers; adjunct, clinical, and visiting faculty; post-doctoral researchers and fellows; and graduate research assistants, graduate teaching assistants, as well as other graduate assistants.

The ST-83 revisions to the Statutes remove references to “academic staff” as an entity and instead specify that academic freedom is afforded to “protect tenure system and non-tenure system faculty” (*Statutes ST-83 Revision - Article 10, Section 5, part a*).

The revised statutes can thus be interpreted as excluding other members of the academic community from the protections afforded by academic freedom, including among others, instructors, senior instructors, lecturers, and senior lecturers; adjunct, clinical, and visiting faculty; post-doctoral researchers and fellows; and graduate research assistants, graduate teaching assistants, as well as other graduate assistants.

This exclusion from academic freedom is both unfortunate and inappropriate.

We believe that Article 10, Section 5 of the Statutes should be revised to explicitly state the individuals and groups who are afforded the protections associated with academic freedom.

An example of such a modification could be as follows;

Section 5. Academic Freedom

- a. *It is the policy of the University of Illinois System to maintain and encourage full freedom within the law of inquiry, discourse, teaching, research, and publication and to protect members of the academic community, including tenure system and non-tenure system faculty, instructors, senior instructors, lecturers, and senior lecturers; adjunct, clinical, and visiting faculty; post-doctoral researchers and fellows; and graduate research assistants, graduate teaching assistants, as well as other graduate assistants against influences, from within or without the University of Illinois System, which that would restrict the academic community member's exercise of these freedoms in their area of scholarly interest. Academic freedom includes the right to discuss and present scholarly opinions and conclusions both in and outside the classroom. The right to the protection of the University of Illinois System shall not, however, include any right to the services of the University of Illinois System counsel or the counsel's assistants in any governmental or judicial proceedings in which the academic freedom of the academic community member may be in issue.*
- b. *As a citizen, a member of the academic community may exercise the same freedoms as other citizens without institutional censorship, discipline, or restraint. Academic community members should be mindful, however, that accuracy, forthrightness, and dignity befit association with the system and a person of learning and that the public may judge that person's profession and the system by the individual's conduct and utterances.*
- c. *If, in the president's judgment, a member of the academic community exercises freedom of expression as a citizen and fails to heed the admonitions of Article X, Section 4b, the president may publicly disassociate the Board of Trustees and the University of Illinois System from and express their disapproval of such objectionable expressions.*
- d. *Members of the academic community who believe that they do not enjoy the academic freedom that it is the policy of the University of Illinois System to maintain and encourage shall be entitled to a hearing on written request before the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure of the appropriate university senate. Such hearing shall be conducted in accordance with established rules of procedure. The committee shall make findings of facts and recommendations to*

*the president and, at its discretion, may make an appropriate report to the senate.
The several committees may from time to time establish their own rules of
procedure.*

Members of the provost's leadership team would be pleased to meet with your committee and/or the senate to answer any questions you may have regarding this important issue.

Thank you for your service to the academic senate and the university.

Sincerely,

Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko
Dean, Graduate College