

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
(Final; Action)

CC.26.05 Election of a University Senates Conference (USC) Member to Serve on the 2025-2026 Senate Executive Committee (SEC)

BACKGROUND

One member of the Committee on University Senates Conference shall be elected to the Senate Executive Committee, as prescribed in Part D.1.c of the *Bylaws* (*Bylaws* Part D.18).

The Senate Executive Committee shall consist of (i) one of the Senate's representatives to the University Senates Conference, elected by the Senate at its organizational meeting. Nominees shall be those members of the Committee on University Senates Conference who consent to serve if elected. [All continuing and newly elected USC members were invited to self-nominate. Only those listed in this proposal provided consent to serve if elected.]

A majority of votes shall be required to elect on the first ballot. If a majority vote is not reached on the first ballot, a runoff election shall be held between the two nominees who received the highest number of votes and including all of those tied with the highest or second highest number of votes. A plurality of the votes cast shall be required to elect on the second ballot. (*Bylaws* Part D.1.c.1.i)

NOMINATIONS

On behalf of the University Senates Conference members who consent to serve on the Senate Executive Committee if elected, the Committee on Committees presents the following nominees to serve a one-year term on the SEC ending 2026. Each senator may cast one vote.

Linda Herrera	EDUC
Rob Kar	LAW

Nominations from the floor must be accompanied by the nominee's willingness to serve if elected and indicate the position to be filled, or the nominee's oral acceptance if present. A statement of interest limited to 150 words is also requested.

Please note this ballot is subject to change and is contingent upon the outcome of prior elections.

Alex Belanger
Kent Choquette
Linda Herrera
Myles Johnson
Prasanta Kalita
Robin Kar
Lilah Leopold
Carol Symes
Jenny Roether, *ex officio*

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Linda Herrera (Professor, EDUC)

Higher education in the United States is at an inflection point. I am interested in serving in the University Senates Conference (USC) to support, lend guidance to, and work collectively with colleagues during this critical period. We need advocates to uphold principles of shared governance, academic freedom, and constitutional protections for all members of the university community. Being an international education scholar with over three decades of experience working in three continents with governments, civil society organizations, and multilateral organization on education policy, has served as valuable preparation for this position.

Rob Kar (Professor, LAW)

As a professor of law and philosophy, I would be happy to serve on USC if this body believes my experience could be useful. Having led USC as President and Vice President, and as President of this Academic Senate for three years, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, I bring a deep understanding of shared governance. My roles as President of the local AAUP chapter and head of the philosophy department for three years strengthened my skills in collaboration and addressing challenges. While I initially stepped back from Senate leadership to support emerging leaders, my experience may be useful for today's new challenges. With a proven track record in leadership, advocacy, and consensus-building, I believe I am especially well equipped to contribute to this body's mission as a USC representative, where I would seek to safeguard our institution's values, including academic freedom and shared governance.