

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

CC.26.09 Faculty Nominations to the 2025-2026 Joint Advisory Committee on Investment, Licensing, and Naming Rights

**BACKGROUND**

The Joint Advisory Committee on Investment, Licensing, and Naming Rights (1) Provides advice, consistent with the values of the University, to the Office of the Chancellor on issues of social responsibility related to campus investment, licensing, and naming rights. Such issues may include licensing the University's names, symbols, and insignia; supporting workers' rights and fair labor practices; sponsoring products; and advancing corporate social responsibility. (2) Reviews proposals to name campus buildings, classrooms, or other physical facilities for donors or other honorees. (3) Fulfills the Senate's requirement to provide advice regarding eponymic renaming of academic units (*Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4). And (4) Reports promptly to the Senate outcomes of its votes on eponymic renaming of academic units, anonymized as appropriate.

Three faculty members shall be appointed by the Chancellor, in consultation with the Chair of the Senate Executive Committee, from nominations of at least two individuals for each vacancy made by the Committee on Committees and approved by the Senate. Two additional faculty members shall be selected and appointed by the Chancellor, in consultation with the Chair of the Senate Executive Committee. The five faculty members shall serve staggered, renewable terms of three years.

Faculty members of the Committee and the expiration of their terms are listed below. Members in *italics* have terms expiring.

John Caughlin	LAS	2026	Senate nominee appointed by Chancellor
Pia Hunter	LAW	2027	Chancellor's appointment
Shawn Gilmore	LAS	2027	Senate nominee appointed by Chancellor
<i>Lesley Wexler</i>	<i>LAW</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>Chancellor's appointment</i>
<i>Margaret Wright</i>	<i>BUS</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>Senate nominee appointed by Chancellor</i>

**NOMINATIONS**

The Senate Committee on Committees recommends approval of the following nominees to fill two faculty vacancies for three-year terms expiring in 2028.

Caroline Cao	ENGR
Jessica Harms	SSW
Lesley Wexler	LAW
Margaret Wright	BUS

If no additional nominations are made, the nominees below will be forwarded to the Chancellor and the Chair of the Senate Executive Committee for selection of two faculty members to serve. Statements of interest are included.

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.

2024-2025 COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Chaya Sandler, Chair

Alex Belanger

Kent Choquette

Linda Herrera

Myles Johnson

Prasanta Kalita

Robin Kar

Lilah Leopold

Carol Symes

Jenny Roether, *ex officio*

**STATEMENTS OF INTEREST**

**Caroline Cao (Professor, ENGR)**

As Director of Applied Health Technology Initiatives (GCOE) and Director of Engineering Innovation and Medical Simulation (CI MED), I am actively engaging with faculty, staff and students, and with industry partners and donors. I am keen to join this advisory body to learn more about the issues that UIUC is working on in this area, and also to contribute by bringing my perspective and experience.

**Jessica Harms (Clinical Assistant Professor, SSW)**

Born and raised in Champaign, I'm a lifelong UIUC supporter. I am a first generation college graduate and a UIUC graduate school alum. I am eager to bring my unique perspective and expertise to the Joint Advisory Committee on Investment, Licensing, and Naming Rights. I believe that my background in mental health advocacy and social work will provide valuable insights into the ethical and community-focused considerations that are essential for our university's growth and reputation. Thank you for your consideration.

**Lesley Wexler (Professor, LAW)**

Professor Wexler has served on the Joint Advisory Committee on Licensing, Investment, and Naming Rights for over a decade. In that time, she has served several terms as chair. As chair, she oversaw the formalization of the committee's role within the larger system. As a law professor, Professor Wexler occasionally researches and writes in areas that help to inform her work on the committee.

**Margaret Wright (Clinical Assistant Professor, BUS)**

Professor Wright has a deep interest in the manner in which “Licensing, Investment and Naming Rights” is accomplished on a university campus. She believes there have been too many instances of permitting an individual to have a program, license or building names after them based on monetary considerations with not enough emphasis on ethical and legal considerations. When this happens, the University and the Donor face embarrassment and ridicule. This is not the case at UIUC from the two, soon to be three, years Professor Wright has been a member of the Committee. Consideration of factors in the Donors past and present activities are researched, presented in advance of the actual meeting, with meaningful discussion taking place before a vote. Professor Wright finds this process to be totally rewarding.

Professor Wright is a licensed Attorney, knowledgeable in the concept and practice of “due diligence” which is required in decision making. Given that her specialty, when practicing, was business and corporate law, she is fully aware of how to accomplish this result. It is Professor Wright’s belief from observing the Committee, that due diligence is accomplished when evaluating a Donor’s background, given the procedures followed by the Committee.

Professor Wright has had the pleasure of serving on the Licensing, Investment and Naming Rights Committee and she looks forward to doing so once again in the academic year of 2025-2026.