

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES
(First Reading; Information)

SP.26.07 Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article II, Section 1(b) – Faculty Representation

BACKGROUND

The proposed alteration would remove a restriction in the Senate *Constitution* on instructors or lecturers who would otherwise be eligible as part of the faculty electorate. The Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials (EC) notes:

This exclusion no longer fits how we operate in practice. Today, some instructional faculty legitimately pursue UIUC degrees part-time while teaching – especially with the rise of flexible online degree programs – so a blanket exclusion no longer reflects current hiring or workload realities. In addition, the Senate does not systematically screen instructional staff for degree-seeking status when seating members, so the clause functions more as a theoretical barrier than an operational test, creating a mismatch between the text and how membership is actually administered.

Further, a restriction on the student electorate (*Constitution*, Article IV.1) accounts for any concerns over individuals being eligible for two electorates: “The student electorate shall consist of all individuals actively seeking a degree at this University and are not members of any other Senate electorate.”

EC’s recommendation concludes: “EC supports striking the degree-seeking exclusion in Article II, §1(b) and relying on the existing cross-electorate prohibition in Article IV, §1 to prevent dual membership.”

RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends the approval of the following proposed revision to the *Constitution*. Text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~ and text to be added is underlined. Amendments to the *Constitution* require two-thirds approval by the Senate.

- 1 **PROPOSED REVISION TO THE *CONSTITUTION*, ARTICLE II**
- 2 **ARTICLE II – FACULTY REPRESENTATION**
- 3 **Section 1.** The faculty electorate shall consist of those members of the academic staff who are
- 4 directly engaged in and responsible for the educational function of the University; ordinarily

5 this will involve teaching and research. The faculty electorate shall consist of all persons of the
6 campus non-visiting academic staff, excluding persons holding administrative appointments in
7 excess of one-half time (the exception to this exclusion are executive officers of departments or
8 similar units, and assistant or associate executive officers of such units, who are otherwise
9 eligible), who:

- 10 a. Hold the modified or unmodified academic rank or title of professor, associate
11 professor, or assistant professor, have at least one-half time appointment, and are
12 paid by the University; or
- 13 b. Hold the academic rank or title of instructor or lecturer at any rank, have at least a
14 one-half time appointment, and are paid by the University, ~~and are not pursuing a~~
15 ~~degree from this University;~~ or
- 16 c. Are retired members of the campus academic staff with the title of emeritus, and would
17 otherwise be eligible for inclusion in the faculty electorate. However, retired members
18 shall not be counted for purposes of the provisions of Sections 3, 4, and 6 of this Article.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

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