

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

CC.27.03 Election of the 2026-2027 Presiding Officer of the Senate

BACKGROUND

The Presiding Officer of the Senate shall be a member of the Senate electorate, but not a current senator, and shall be elected as prescribed in the Senate *Bylaws*. The Presiding Officer of the Senate shall chair all Senate meetings. In the absence of the Presiding Officer of the Senate from the chair, the Presiding Officer's designee shall preside. The Presiding Officer's designee must meet the same eligibility criteria as the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer of the Senate may not make or second motions, participate in debate, or vote on any matter, except in the event of a tie. In this event, the Presiding Officer of the Senate may cast the deciding vote, even if the Presiding Officer of the Senate is not a voting member of the Senate. (Article VI, Section 7 of the Senate *Constitution*)

The Presiding Officer of the Senate or the Presiding Officer's designee shall preside at Senate meetings. (Part A.1 of the Senate *Bylaws*)

The Presiding Officer of the Senate shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the Senate Executive Committee and is expected to attend meetings of the Senate Executive Committee. (Part D.1.c.1.o of the Senate *Bylaws*)

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the Presiding Officer of the Senate shall be made by the incumbent Committee on Committees. Nominations may also be made by others and must be accompanied by consent to serve from the person nominated. The nominator shall provide a brief biographical sketch of each nominee. (Part A.7.d of the Senate *Bylaws*)

The Senate Committee on Committees nominates the following members of the Senate electorate for a one-year term as Presiding Officer of the Senate ending in 2027. A statement of interest is included.

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| A. Chuck Pavloski | Associate Director for Engagement (OVCRI) |
| B. H. George Friedman, Jr | Professor Emeritus (ENGR) |
| C. Allison Frees-Williams | Coordinator of Disability Career Services (AHS) |
| D. Beth Phillips | Labor and Employee Relations Consultant (IHR) |

2025-2026 COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
Chaya Sandler, Chair

Kent Choquette
Linda Herrera
Gal Hochman
Tania Ionin
Myles Johnson
Bernhard Scully
Sahil Jain, *ex officio*
Jenny Roether, *ex officio*

STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

A. **Chuck Pavloski (Associate Director for Engagement, OVCRI)**

As a long-term academic profession, both at UIUC and previously at Penn State University, I am keenly aware of many of the issues that face faculty and staff at higher educational institutions. I see this opportunity as a way of becoming even more familiar with problems facing UIUC faculty and staff, leveraging my 30+ years of experience into the fold. It would be an honor to contribute to the future of this wonderful university!

B. **H. George Friedman, Jr (Professor Emeritus, ENGR)**

I have been either a member or an observer of the Senate for several decades. I served on the SP and EC committees. I was Presiding Officer of the Senate previously. I am currently one of the Parliamentarians of the Senate.

C. **Allison Frees-Williams (Coordinator of Disability Career Services, AHS)**

I am an experienced higher education professional and current doctoral candidate in Education Administration at Indiana State University, with a career dedicated to advancing equity, access, and student success. At the University of Illinois, I serve in career and disability services, where I lead initiatives that center on inclusive practices, student advocacy, and institutional collaboration. My work spans advising, program development, teaching, and campus engagement, with a strong emphasis on elevating underrepresented voices. I bring a thoughtful, facilitative leadership style grounded in transparency, ethical decision-making, and respect for shared governance. With experience convening diverse stakeholders and fostering meaningful dialogue, I am well prepared to preside over Senate meetings with fairness and integrity. I am committed to supporting the Senate's role in shaping a more inclusive, responsive, and forward-thinking university community.

D. **Beth Phillips (Labor and Employee Relations Consultant, IHR)**

I am interested in serving as Presiding Officer of the University Senate to promote shared governance and fostering trust in the Senate's processes. My leadership approach centers on transparency, careful listening, and consistent application of rules and procedures. I believe trust in shared governance is built when all members feel heard, meetings are conducted impartially, and decisions are made through clear and respectful processes. I am committed to maintaining a professional and collaborative atmosphere that supports civil

disagreement and thoughtful dialogue. As Presiding Officer, I would work to manage meetings efficiently and even-handedly, safeguard the integrity of Senate processes, and support members and committees in carrying out the Senate's responsibilities. I would be honored to serve the Senate with fairness, integrity, and respect for the diverse perspectives it represents.