RECEIVED BY SENATE
10/19/2026

SC.26.28
October 19, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(Final; Information)

SC.26.28 2025-2026 Annual Report of the Senate Executive Committee

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) during the 2025-2026 academic year. SEC held five meetings during the fall 2025 semester (August 25, September 8, October 6, November 3, December 1), five meetings during the spring 2026 semester (January 26, February 2, March 2, March 30, April 20), and three meetings during the summer of 2026 (May 18, June 15, July 13). In addition, SEC called an emergency meeting on April 6, 2026 to designate a Senate Chair *pro tempore* for the Senate meeting on April 6, 2026. More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

SEC also held four meetings to hear annual presentations from the vice chancellors (October 27, November 17, March 23, April 13). SEC provided advice to the Chancellor on the annual appointment of the Vice Chancellors in closed session on May 18, 2026. SEC provided advice to the President on the annual appointment of the Chancellor in closed session on June 15, 2026.

SEC heard remarks from the Chancellor, Charles L. Isbell, Jr., or his designee at each regular meeting.

SEC's annual meeting with the University of Illinois System President, Timothy Killeen, was on January 26, 2026.

SEC solicited volunteers to serve as the Urbana Senate Observer for the following Board of Trustees meetings: September 18, 2025: Angie Lyons; November 13, 2025: Chaya Sandler; January 16, 2026: Joanne Kaczmarek; March 19, 2026: Eric Kurt; May 21, 2026: Angie Lyons; July 16, 2026: Angie Lyons.

I. ITEMS SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE

SC.26.01, Election of Faculty Senators to the 2025-2026 Committee on Committees
Faculty senators Gal Hochman (ACES), Tania Ionin (LAS), and Bernhard Scully (FAA) were elected to the Senate Committee on Committees (CC) by the Senate on 05/05/2025.

SC.26.02, Election of Student Senators to the 2025-2026 Committee on Committees
Undergraduate student senator Johnson (ENGR) was elected to the Senate Committee on Committess (CC) by the Senate on 05/05/2025. There were no graduate student senator nominees.

SC.26.03, Establish the Ninth Senate Review Commission (SR9)
Consistent with the Senate *Constitution* VI.10 and *Bylaws* D.1.a.12, the SEC recommended establishing the Ninth Senate Review Commission (SR9), including parameters for its composition and a timeline of its recommendations, initially planned to include work from Fall 2025 through Fall 2026. SC.26.03 was approved by SEC on 08/28/2025 and approved by the Senate on 09/15/2025.

SC.26.03 directed the SEC to prepare a charge letter to SR9. After the Senate rejected SC.26.04 (below), which would have created an Ad Hoc Committee on the Honorary Degree Awards Process, the SEC crafted a charge to SR9 (based on its discussions at its September 8 and October 6 meetings), including directions to address the Senate's honorary degree awards process, which Chair Lyons sent on October 7, 2025.

Subsequently, Chair Lyons reported that the deadline for SR9 to submit their recommendations on the honorary degree award process was extended to January 8, 2026. Further, Chair Lyons reported that the deadline for SR9 to submit their final report was extended to February 1, 2027.

SC.26.04, Establish the Ad Hoc Committee on the Honorary Degree Awards Process
Prior to the 2025-26 academic year, the Office of the Chancellor instituted a pause on recognizing honorary recommendations from the Senate until changes were made to protect the privacy of honorary degree award candidates and to the processes used by the Senate. SEC proposed an Ad Hoc Committee on the Honorary Degree Awards Process to:

1. Examine the current honorary degree award process and determine if the process is efficient, effective, and appropriately balances faculty engagement with the University's needs.
2. Ensure the process for granting honorary degree awards reflects best practices and maintains consistency with the University's mission and values.

SC.26.04 further proposed parameters on the composition of the *ad hoc* committee and a timeline that would have run through February 2026. SC.26.04 was approved by SEC on 08/25/2025 but rejected by the Senate on 09/15/2025.

SEC added the task of proposing recommendations about the Senate's honorary degree awards processes to the charge (SC.26.03) to the Senate Review Commission (SR9) at its October 6, 2026 meeting.

SC.26.05, Election of a Graduate Student Senator to the 2025-2026 Committee on Committees
SEC nominated graduate student senator Doxey Kamara (GRAD) to the Senate Committee on Committees (CC). SC.26.05 was approved by SEC on 11/03/2025 and Doxey was elected by the Senate on 11/10/2025.

SC.26.08, Interim Selection of Student Senators to Serve on the 2025-2026 Student Election Board (SEB)
SEC nominated student senators Patrick Holt (ACES) and Jackson Pence (LAS) to the Student Election Board (SEB). SC.26.08 was approved by SEC on 11/03/2025 and Holt and Pence were elected by the Senate on 11/10/2025.

SC.26.09, Revised Policy on Integrity and Scholarly Activities (USC OT-393)
SEC received a letter from the University Senates Conference (USC) dated October 27, 2025, that requested feedback on the Revised Policy on Integrity and Scholarly Activities (OT-393), which contained revisions prepared to meet recent changes put in place as a final rule by the federal Office of Research Integrity. The proposed changes were approved by the Board of Trustees at its November 2025 meeting, while waiting for the senates to transmit comments.

At its meeting on November 3, 2025, SEC referred this item to the Senate Committees on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AF), General University Policy (GP), and Research Policy (RP). Responses from these committees were provided to SEC via AF.26.01, GP.26.05, and RP.26.03. Feedback was also solicited from all senators at the Senate meeting on December 8, 2025, and via an online form. Feedback from the Senate was compiled and transmitted by SEC to USC on May 1, 2026.

SC.26.14, Election of an Undergraduate Student Senator and a Graduate Student Senator to Fill Vacancies on the 2025-2026 Committee on Committees
An undergraduate student senator vacancy was created by the presumed resignation of Sohan Hajra (LAS), and the graduate student vacancy was created by the resignation of Doxey Kamara (GRAD). Undergraduate student Myles Johnson (ENGR) was elected by the Senate on 02/09/2026. There were no graduate student senator nominees.

SC.26.17, Process and Timeline for Submitting Faculty Nominations to Serve on the Search Committee to Assist in the Selection of a President
SC.26.17 described the manner in which the Senate participated on the Search Committee to Assist in the Selection of a President. SC.26.17 was approved by SEC on 03/02/2026 and approved by the Senate on 03/09/2026.

Nine faculty nominees were transmitted to the University Senates Conference (USC) before the deadline of April 6, 2026, for the selection of three faculty members by the Board of Trustees.

SC.26.20, 2026-2027 Senate and Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting Schedules
SC.26.20, which proposed the 2026-2027 schedule of Senate and Senate Executive Committee meetings, was approved by SEC on 04/10/2026 and approved by the Senate on 04/27/2026.

2025-2026 Presiding Officer of the Senate Vacancy
The Senate elected Rurik Tywoniw to serve as the 2025-2026 Presiding Officer of the Senate on May 5, 2025 (CC.26.03). However, in March 2025, staff from the Office of the Senate became aware that Tywoniw was ineligible to serve in this capacity, as his current appointment did not fit the requirements for the position, per the Senate *Constitution* VI.7. The Senate, at its April 6, 2026 meeting, designated H. George Friedman, Jr. to serve as Chair *pro tempore* at its meeting on April 6, 2026.

On April 27, 2026, the Senate elected H. George Friedman, Jr. (CC.26.32) to serve as the Presiding Officer of the Senate for its meeting on April 27, 2026, and its Organizational meeting on May 4, 2026.

II. ITEMS REPORTED TO THE SENATE

SC.26.12, Report on the November 13, 2025, Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System in Chicago
Chaya Sandler served as the Urbana Senate Observer at the Board of Trustees meeting on November 13, 2025.

SC.26.15, Report on the January 15, 2026, Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System in Chicago
Joanne Kaczmarek served as the Urbana Senate Observer at the Board of Trustees meeting on January 15, 2026.

SC.26.26, Report on the May 21, 2026, Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System in Urbana
Angela Lyons served as the Urbana Senate Observer at the Board of Trustees meeting on May 21, 2026.

SC.26.27, Report on the July 16, 2026, Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois System in Urbana
Angela Lyons served as the Urbana Senate Observer at the Board of Trustees meeting on July 16, 2026.

III. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

SC.26.06, 2025-2026 Annual Presentation from the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Danita Brown Young
Vice Chancellor Brown Young shared an annual presentation on October 27, 2025.

SC.26.07, 2025-2026 Annual Presentation from the Vice Chancellor for Chicago Strategic Partnerships, Rashid Bashir
Vice Chancellor Bashir shared an annual presentation on October 27, 2025.

SC.26.16, Ninth Senate Review Commission Request for Committee Feedback from the Senate Executive Committee
After discussing a request from the Ninth Senate Review Commission (SR9) to provide feedback on the charge and composition of the Senate Executive Committee, SEC members agreed on June 15, 2026, to allow SEC Chair Lyons and Senate Clerk Roether to collate and submit feedback on behalf of SEC. Feedback was submitted to SR9 on 07/08/2026.

SC.26.10, 2025-2026 Annual Presentation from the Interim Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Designate, Gioconda Guerra Pérez
Interim Vice Chancellor Guerra Pérez shared an annual presentation on November 17, 2025.

SC.26.11, 2025-2026 Presentation from the Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University of Illinois System, Nicholas Jones
Executive Vice President Jones was invited to share information due to the resignation of Michael DeLorenzo, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Operations, from the University. EVP Jones shared a verbal presentation on November 17, 2025.

SC.26.13, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 7a – Sabbatical Leaves and Unpaid Leaves of Absence for Members of the Faculty (USC ST-90)
At the December 1, 2025 meeting of the SEC, Chair Lyons introduced a proposal to coordinate Senate committee activity on USC ST-90, a proposed change to the University *Statutes* affecting sabbatical leaves, which had been transmitted to the Senate at the beginning of Fall 2025. After discussion, SC.26.13 was removed from the SEC agenda by vote on 12/01/2025.

SC.26.18, 2025-2026 Annual Presentation from the Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, Aimee Heeter
Senior Vice Chancellor Heeter shared an annual presentation on March 23, 2026.

SC.26.19, 2025-2026 Annual Presentation from Vice Chancellor for Advancement and Senior Vice President of the University of Illinois Foundation, Dale Wright
Vice Chancellor Wright shared an annual presentation on March 23, 2026.

SC.26.21, 2025-2026 Annual Presentation from Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, John Coleman
Provost Coleman shared an annual presentation on April 13, 2026.

SC.26.22, 2025-2026 Annual Presentation from Senior Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation, Susan Martinis
Senior Vice Chancellor Martinis shared an annual presentation on April 13, 2026.

SC.26.22, Designate an Alternate to the Faculty Advisory Council to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (FAC-IBHE)
At the SEC meeting on May 18, 2026, Angela Lyons volunteered to serve as the Alternate to the FAC-IBHE and will represent the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign when faculty member Gay Miller is unavailable to attend. There were no objections to Lyons serving in this capacity and was designated as the Alternate to the FAC-IBHE by SEC on 05/18/2026.

SC.26.24, Onboarding for Senators, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members
Chair Lyons encouraged SEC members to continue providing information to incoming 2026-2027 SEC members and Senate committee chairs. This item was carried forward to an onboarding session led by incoming SEC Chair, Timothy Bretl, and other Senate leaders on August 24, 2026. SEC determined their work was complete and closed this item on 08/31/2026.

IV. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

SC.26.25, Response to the Ninth Senate Review Commission's (SR9) Review of the Honorary Degree Award Process (SR.26.01)
At the July 13, 2026 SEC meeting, the SEC voted to endorse Model A (full delegation) as presented in the recommendations (SR.26.01) from the Ninth Senate Review Commissions (SR9). SC.26.25, SR.26.01, and the Senate Committee on Honorary Degree's internal report, HD.26.02, will be reported to the 2026-2027 Senate at its meeting on September 28, 2026.

V. OTHER SENATE COMMITTEE ITEMS AND RESOLUTIONS APPEARING ON SEC AGENDAS

EP.25.082, Revision to the Language Other Than English (LOTE) Requirement for Online Degree Completion Programs
Nolan Miller, Chair of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EP), presented EP.25.082, proposed revisions to the Language Other Than English (LOTE) requirements for online degree completion programs to the SEC, which the committee discussed at its meeting on October 6, 2025. The SEC placed EP.25.082 on the Senate agenda for October 13, 2025, as a first reading and discussion. The SEC further discussed EP.25.082 at its meeting on November 3, 2025. EP.25.082 then appeared on the Senate agenda for November 10, 2025, as a second reading and for a subsequent vote.

EP.26.068, Revise Section 3-404 of the *Student Code*, Bronze Tablet
Nolan Miller, Chair of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EP), presented EP.26.068, a proposal that would establish a fixed cutoff of a 4.0 GPA for inclusion on the campus bronze tablets. The SEC discussed EP.26.068 at its meeting on March 2, 2026, placing it on the Senate agenda for March 9, 2026.

HD.26.02, Internal Review of the Honorary Degree Award Process
Jon Hale, Chair *pro tempore* of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees (HD), submitted HD.26.02, an Internal Review of the Honorary Degree Award Process to SEC for discussion at its meeting on March 2, 2026.

IT.26.02, Shared Governance and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Review
James Quisenberry, Chair of the Senate Committee on Information Technology (IT), requested feedback from SEC at its meeting on May 18, 2026.

RS.26.01, Resolution to Reject the Compact on Academic Excellence in Higher Education
Faculty senator Jon Hale (EDUC) introduced a senator-sponsored resolution that urged the administration to reject the call by the Trump administration to join a "compact." The SEC discussed the resolution at its meeting on November 3, 2025, and placed it on the Senate agenda for November 10, 2025.

RS.26.02, Resolution in Defense of the Status of Non-Citizen Students
Student senator Patrick Holt introduced a senator-sponsored resolution that responded to recent federal actions affecting international students, which the SEC discussed at its meeting on February 2, 2026. This item was placed on the Senate agenda for February 9, 2026.

SR.26.01, Review of the Honorary Degree Award Process
At the SEC meeting on March 2, 2026, Nolan Miller, Chair of the Ninth Senate Review Commission (SR9) presented its recommendations in response to the portion of SR9's charge under SC.26.03 (above) which suggested potential revisions to the Senate's honorary degree award processes. SEC discussed the two primary models presented in SR.26.01, Model A (full delegation of the honorary degree process to a joint advisory committee) and Model B (partial delegation with a final Senate vote), at subsequent meetings, and voted to endorse Model A at its meeting on July 13, 2026 (SC.26.25, above).

SP.26.01, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 7a – Sabbatical Leaves and Unpaid Leaves of Absence for Members of the Faculty (ST-90)
At the SEC meeting on April 20, 2026, Shawn Gilmore, Chair of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP), provided an overview of SP.26.01, in response to USC ST-90, a proposed change to the *Statutes* that would alter sabbatical eligibility. SEC discussed various complications that might arise due to the proposed changes.

SP.26.02, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article II, Sections 3a(1) and 3a(2) – Faculty Role in Governance (ST-91)

At the SEC meeting on April 20, 2026, Shawn Gilmore, Chair of the Senate Committee on University *Statutes* and Senate Procedures (SP), provided an overview of SP.26.02, in response to USC ST-91, a proposed change to the *Statutes* that would expand the definition of "faculty." SEC discussed various considerations. SP.26.02 had previously appeared on Senate agendas for October 13, 2025, December 8, 2025, and April 6, 2026, and appeared for a fourth and final time on April 27, 2026.

SUBMITTED BY SEC VICE-CHAIR, Shawn Gilmore
on behalf of the
2025-2026 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Angela Lyons, Chair
Shawn Gilmore, Vice-Chair
David Forsyth
Hunter Farnham
Patrick Holt
Yvette Johnson-Walker
Joanne Kaczmarek
Anjali Kumar
Eric Kurt
Ralph Mathisen
Gay Miller
Nolan Miller
James Quisenberry
Charles Roseman
Chaya Sandler
Kelli Trei
Jessic Williams
H. George Friedman, *ex officio*
Charles L. Isbell, Jr., *ex officio*