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

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)

BACKGROUND
On April 22, 2025, the University Senates Conference (USC) transmitted to our Senate ST-90, which contains potential amendments to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 7.a, originally proposed by the Chicago Senate. These proposed changes would expand the list of those eligible to apply for sabbatical leaves to include non-tenure system faculty with certain modified professor titles, as well as instructors and lecturers.

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP) began its consideration of ST-90 in Fall 2025 under the agenda item SP.26.01. Per the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8.a.1, proposed amendments to the *Statutes* initiated by a Senate are then considered by each Senate, which "may act on the proposed amendment in accord with its own established procedures, including the right to concur, to modify, or to reject any proposed amendment or proposed statutory text". Throughout the Fall and early Spring, SP solicited input from the Senate Committees on the Budget (BG), Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits (FB), and General University Policy (GP), as well as the Office of the Provost and Council of Deans (via the Provost). That input, including the April 2, 2026, Office of the Provost presentation to SP, is attached. The proposed textual changes are quite straightforward, though questions of the impact of these changes on our campus may not be.

Senate discussion will inform SP's work on this item, which will then be brought to the Senate for a continued discussion and vote.

Context:

- The *Statutes* describe sabbatical leave as "study, research, or other pursuit, the object of which is to increase the faculty member's usefulness to the system" (Article IX, Section 7.a.). Provost Communication #19, which currently applies to tenure system faculty, Section 3.2 lists approved purposes that include research, teaching and creative work, such as developing a graduate course or completing a major series of paintings.
- The *Statutes* state that a sabbatical "may be granted" on the recommendation of the department head or chair with the concurrence of the dean, "subject to approval by the chancellor/vice president, the president, and the Board of Trustees" (Article IX, Section 7.a.). This amendment only changes who is eligible to apply.

SP has received input from FB, GP, and the Office of the Provost and each body's full response is attached. The data and feedback received reflect the nuanced perspectives and interests represented by these bodies. We encourage the Senate to review these documents and consider those perspectives, thoughts, and concerns.

For discussion at the October 19, 2026, Senate meeting, SP would like to hear from senators on the following questions, as well as any other recommendations they may have.

- Would it be beneficial to the University for non-tenure system faculty to be eligible for sabbatical leave?
- Do you suggest any changes to the proposed amendment to the *Statutes*?
- The Chicago Senate proposal narrowly focuses on changing eligibility, given that this is a University-level process. If the Urbana-Champaign Senate approves this amendment, what role should the Senate have in shaping the implementation on our campus?

RECOMMENDATION FROM UIC ST-90

Text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~ and text to be added is <u>underlined</u>.

PROPOSED REVISION TO THE *STATUTES*, ARTICLE IX, SECTION 7a – SABBATICAL LEAVES AND UNPAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY

Section 7. Sabbatical Leaves and Unpaid Leaves of Absence for Members of the Faculty

a. On the recommendation of the head or chair of a department with the concurrence of the dean of the college or on recommendation of the dean or director of an independent university unit and subject to approval by the chancellor/vice president, the president, and the Board of Trustees<u>,</u> a member of the faculty who has the rank of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor, <u>or the rank of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor modified by "teaching," "research," or "clinical," or the rank of instructor or lecturer with or without "senior" modification</u> and who has served the University of Illinois System for the periods indicated below on full-time appointment ~~as an assistant professor or in higher rank~~ since the faculty member's original appointment or since the termination of that faculty member's last leave on salary is eligible to apply for and may be granted a sabbatical leave of absence with pay for the purpose of study, research, or other pursuit, the object of which is to increase the faculty member's usefulness to the system. The following options are available:

(1) After completion of eight appointment years of full-time service: Two semesters at 2/3 salary

One semester at full salary

(2) After completion of six appointment years of full-time service: Two semesters at ½ salary

One semester at full salary

(3) After completion of three or four appointment years of full-time service, in cases where the interest of the department and the University of Illinois System would clearly be served thereby, and provided that granting of leave does not involve expense to the system in excess of the portion of salary which is released in consequence of taking such leave, the following options are available:

After three years: One semester at ½ salary After four years: One semester at 2/3 salary

(4) Faculty on "Y" (11 month) appointments may be granted sabbatical leaves, subject to the other general conditions of this section as follows: After completion of nine years of full-time service, three-fourths of an appointment year at full pay; after completion of eight years of full-time service, one appointment year at two-thirds pay or two-thirds of an appointment year at full pay; after completion of six years of full-time service, one appointment year at half pay or one-half appointment year at full pay; after completion of four years, one-half appointment year at two-thirds pay; after completion of three years, one-half

appointment year at half pay or one-fourth appointment year at full pay.

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