The Senate General University Policy Committee (GUP) is responsible for studying, reporting and making recommendations to the Senate concerning general University policy in broad terms. This report summarizes the activities of GUP during the 2014-2015 academic year. GUP met nine times (September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3, February 11, March 11, April 8, April 27, and May 6). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

Items that were under active consideration this year (2014-15):

GP.12.08  Task Force on Dual Tenure Positions
Vice Provost Abbas Benmamoun distributed copies of “Conflict of Commitment and Interest: Faculty Appointments.” New wording was added to clarify faculty relationships with other institutions of higher education. GUP reviewed the document and did not note any concerns.

GP.14.01  Update on Principles of Shared Governance
This policy was developed in collaboration with the Office of the Provost and is now established as Provost’s Communication #27 (Shared Governance for Academic Units). It seeks to identify and promote best governance practices at the department and college levels across campus.

GP.14.02  Provost Communication #25: Employment Guidelines for Specialized Faculty Holding Non-Tenure System Positions
This policy was developed in collaboration with the Office of the Provost and is now established as Provost’s Communication #25. It establishes promotion paths and other protections for non-tenure track (here termed “specialized”) faculty.

GP.15.01  Faculty Involvement with Administrative Searches
The campus guidelines outline the categories of academic positions requiring formal searches and the procedures to follow in carrying out such searches. But there are gaps in the process, particularly involving interim appointments. GUP recommended which administrative positions ought to have full searches; how to handle interim appointments; criteria for search waivers and when they are appropriate; and compositions of search committees for these categories of administrative searches.

GP.15.02  Rules on Registered Organizations
GUP has begun preliminary fact-finding. This project will carry over to next year.
GP.15.03 Faculty Compensation for MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course)

This policy was developed in collaboration with Vice Provost Chuck Tucker. It sets compensations levels for faculty who develop MOOCs. GUP supports the policy but also raised additional questions for further policy clarification.

GP.15.04 Review the Hiring Committee Proposals

GUP reviewed these recommendations and wrote an analysis of these recommendations for Senate consideration.

GP.15.05 Review the Confucius Institute MOU

This will take place next year, when the five-year review cycle is reached.

GP.15.06 Review the Open Access Report

GUP met with Dean John Wilkin on May 6, 2015, to discuss the University Senates Conference proposed policy on Open Access to Research Articles at the University of Illinois. The aim of the policy is to provide a mechanism for faculty to post their research, including previously published journal articles, in a free, online archive. GUP found that the proposed policy preserves all intellectual property rights granted to faculty members in the University of Illinois’s governing documents, and recommended acceptance.

Items that are being monitored by the committee:

GP.07.04 Multi-Year Contracts Policy and Implementation

GP.09.01 Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government Foundation

GP.13.09 Records and Information Management Communication

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICY

Nicholas Burbules, Chair
Kimberly Alexander-Brown
Alton Bradley
Yirui Chen
Kim Graber
George Gross
Gabriel Solis
Joyce Tolliver

Abbas Benmamoun, Ex officio