

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Prefiled Resolution

RS.15.03 Senate Resolution on the SEC Resolution on Ad Hoc Committee Formation

WHEREAS University of Illinois *Statutes* (Article IX, Section 3b) state that faculty “Appointments shall be made solely on the basis of the special fitness of the individual for the work demanded in the position,” and

WHEREAS such fitness is best judged by scholars in the disciplinary field of the proposed appointee, the academic field being embodied in the university department, and

WHEREAS Provost Communication No. 9 states that “The Provost makes the final decision, with advice from the Campus Committee on Promotion and Tenure and the Dean of the Graduate College” (Overview), and

WHEREAS proposing to alter the process by which P&T is currently reviewed and awarded would replace the decision-making authority currently vested in department and college faculty committees (according to Communication 26) and undermine the scholarly mission of the university and the academic autonomy of its academic units,

THEREFORE be it resolved that it would contradict the University’s own guidelines for the Chair of the Senate Executive Committee to charge a task force to propose a process to be followed in cases where the provost or the chancellor finds potential reasons not to proceed with a tenure-track hire that has already been approved by department and college committees, and we call for Provost Communication No. 9 to be respected and that any changes to it be debated by the full body of elected senators.

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SEC RESOLUTION ON AD HOC COMMITTEE FORMATION

Approved by the SEC on August 25, 2014

WHEREAS decisions about faculty hiring, tenure, and promotion “are primarily a faculty responsibility” (AAUP Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities <http://www.aaup.org/file/statement-on-government.pdf>); and

WHEREAS “All appointments, reappointments, and promotions of the academic staff . . . shall be made by the Board of Trustees on the recommendation of the chancellor/vice president concerned and the president” (*University of Illinois Statutes*, IX. 3.a); and

WHEREAS there is currently no process stipulated in the governing documents of the University of Illinois to deal with cases in which a unit’s recommendation for appointment of a tenure-track faculty member is considered by campus administrators to be potentially unacceptable,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chair of the Senate Executive Committee, in consultation with the Office of the Provost, charge a task force composed of tenured faculty members and appropriate administrative officers to propose a process for impartial and expeditious consultation to be followed in cases where the provost or the chancellor find potential reasons not to proceed with a tenure-track hire that has already been approved by department and college committees; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the task force’s report shall be reviewed by the Senate, which will forward its comments to the Office of the Provost.