

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures
SP.08.11 Annual Report for 2007-2008
(Final; Information)

In addition to this report, the Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) considered fourteen items this year including two held over from previous years. As of the date of writing this report (prior to the April 28, 2008 meeting of the Senate), the status of these items is as follows:

A. Items passed by the Senate.

SP.07.06 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part A.12 - Meetings

Until adoption of SP.07.06, any Illinois Student Senate (ISS) member also serving in the UIUC Senate who was removed from the ISS (e.g. for lack of attendance) would still remain a member of the UIUC Senate. Because these removed senators could not be replaced in ISS until they are no longer members of the UIUC Senate, the academic units to which these non-participating senators belong were not represented in ISS which conducts much business on a weekly basis. Therefore, USSP took to the UIUC Senate an amendment to *Bylaws* that would expedite the process of removing and replacing delinquent student senators. The Senate approved the revision to the *Bylaws* on February 25, 2008.

SP.07.07 Revisions to the *Bylaws*, Part D.9 - Committee on Equal Opportunity

The Sixth Senate Review Commission Final Report recommended "...that during the 2007-08 year, all Senate committees conduct a review of their charge, their operations, their staffing, and their titles, to determine if revisions to any of these might be appropriate." The Committee on Equal Opportunity recommended revisions to the wording of its duties and membership to more completely represent its charge. The Senate approved the revisions to the *Bylaws* on November 5, 2007.

SP.08.02 2007-2008 Urbana-Champaign Senate Membership

This report to the organizational meeting listed the elected members of the new Senate. It was adopted by the new Senate on April 23, 2007.

SP.08.07 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.10 - Committee on Faculty Benefits

The Sixth Senate Review Commission Final Report recommended "...that during the 2007-08 year, all Senate committees conduct a review of their charge, their operations, their staffing, and their titles, to determine if revisions to any of these might be appropriate." The Committee on Faculty Benefits recommended the revision of its name to the Committee of Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits and also the addition of the Director of the Faculty/Staff Assistance Program as an *ex officio* member. The Senate approved the revisions by the *Bylaws* on February 25, 2008.

SP.08.08 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.14 - Committee on the Library

The Sixth Senate Review Commission Final Report recommended "...that during the 2007-08 year, all Senate committees conduct a review of their charge, their operations, their staffing, and their titles, to determine if revisions to any of these might be appropriate." The Committee on the Library recommended increasing its membership to include four students (two undergraduate and two graduate) and also wording to its duties to more

completely represent its charge. The Senate approved the revisions to the *Bylaws* on February 25, 2008.

SP.08.09 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.19 – Committee on University Student Life

The Sixth Senate Review Commission Final Report recommended "...that during the 2007-08 year, all Senate committees conduct a review of their charge, their operations, their staffing, and their titles, to determine if revisions to any of these might be appropriate." The Committee on University Student Life recommended revisions to the wording of its duties to more completely represent its charge. They also recommended the addition of the Provost as an *ex officio* member. The Senate approved the revisions to the *Bylaws* on February 25, 2008.

B. Items presented to the Senate for information.

SP.08.01 Faculty and Student Electorate and Senator Distribution

This report provided a statistical analysis of the membership of the new Senate. It was reported to the organizational meeting on April 23, 2007.

C. Items removed from the Committee agenda without being presented to the Senate.

SP.08.03 Recommendation for the SEC to exercise close control over the pre-planned agenda

SP.08.04 Recommendation for the SEC to set a time limit for debate on each agenda item

SP.08.05 Recommendation for management of efforts to edit proposals from the floor

As it worked to implement recommendations from the Sixth Senate Review Commission, the SEC asked USSP to develop amendments for the *Constitution*, *Bylaws*, or *Standing Rules* to enable better control over the agenda, time limits on debate, and editing of proposals from the floor. On examination, USSP determined that existing *Bylaws*, *Standing Rules*, and *Roberts Rules* provided ample authority for SEC to manage these matters. To facilitate future action, USSP prepared, and SEC adopted, clarifying guidance to be incorporated into the SEC Handbook.

SP.08.06 Recommendation for a revision to the *Standing Rules* regarding quorum

USSP addressed a further recommendation from the Sixth Senate Review Commission that the quorum be counted at the beginning of Senate meetings and considered to be extant for the entirety of the meeting. On discussion and examination of *Roberts Rules*, USSP recognized that such a practice would be clearly inconsistent with the letter and spirit of Robert's provisions, and that the *Rules* already gave the Presiding officer sufficient control over Senate meetings to prevent dilatory measures that would use a quorum call to thwart the proper conduct of business. Accordingly, USSP recommended to SEC no substantive change in how the quorum was assessed, but provided recommendations which SEC incorporated into the SEC Handbook.

SP.08.10 Appointment of 2008-09 Senate Parliamentarians

This has been accomplished. The parliamentarians are Ken Andersen and George Friedman. USSP determined the long-term need for recruitment could best be solved by putting out a call for interns to serve also. Ann Reisner, Gay Miller and Frederick Schwink agreed to serve as interns.

D. Items to be carried over to 2008-2009.

SP.08.12 Senate Representation for Students in the Division of General Studies

With the 2007-2008 conversion of the General Studies program from being a unit within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to being a Division under the administration of the Provost's office, USSP was asked in its elections and credentials role to identify how students in the new Division of General Studies (DGS) would be elected to the Senate as

well as to make adjustments to the student membership from LAS. Following a report of findings by the Clerk of the Senate that the former LAS General Studies comprised LAS District E, USSP recommended that those four seats be moved from LAS to DGS and that the DGS be encouraged to establish an elections and credentials committee to manage its election during the 2008/09 academic year.

SP.08.13

Recommendation to Add Academic Professionals to the Senate Membership

In response to the Committee on General University Policy's report dated February 28, 2008, USSP has begun discussion to add academic professionals to the Senate membership. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws are expected to be put forth next year.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

William Maher, Chair
Bettina Francis
H. George Friedman
Peter Loeb
Vera V. Mainz
Carlos Ramirez-Rosa
Ann Reisner
David Rockwood
Elyne Cole, *ex officio*
Robert C. Damrau, *ex officio*
Larry Mann, *Observer*