

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures
SP.11.15, Annual Report for 2010-2011
(Final; Information)

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

A. Items passed by the Senate.

SP.10.06 *Bylaws Amendments to Add an Other Academic Staff Electorate to the Senate Electorate per Constitution Amendments from SP.09.03*

SP.10.08 *Senate Election Rules for the Faculty Electorate*

SP.10.09a *Senate Election Rules for the Other Academic Staff ABC Electorate*

SP.10.09b *Senate Election Rules for the Other Academic Staff D Electorate*

On November 9, 2009, the UIUC Senate approved an amendment to the *Constitution* (SP.09.03) to add an Other Academic Staff electorate to the UIUC Senate as well as making some changes to the Faculty electorate. Implementation of those changes required changes to the UIUC Senate *Bylaws* and the creation of *Senate Election Rules* for the Other Academic Staff electorate. These proposals recommended the necessary changes in the *Bylaws* (SP.10.06) and *Senate Election Rules* for the Faculty Electorate (SP.10.08) and the creation of the *Senate Election Rules* for the Other Academic Staff ABC Electorate (SP.10.09a) and D Electorate (SP.10.09b). The Senate approved these proposals on October 4, 2010.

SP.10.10 *Changes in the Senate Election Rules for the Student Electorate*

In developing the changes to the *Bylaws* and *Senate Election Rules* necessary to accommodate that inclusion of the Other Academic Staff electorate, USSP reviewed the *Senate Election Rules* for the Faculty and Student electorates as well. This proposal recommended changes to the *Senate Election Rules* for the Student Electorate necessary to update these procedures to reflect current practice and current organizations. The Senate approved the changes to the *Senate Election Rules* for the Student Electorate on October 4, 2010.

SP.10.11 *Revisions to the Statutes, Article X, Section 2 – Academic Freedom*

The Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure proposed that the language of the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 2 be strengthened to more specifically define the scope of academic freedom and to affirm the freedom of the University of Illinois' academic staff to teach, conduct research, and participate in faculty governance and civic discourse without interference. The proposed changes to Section 2 also clarified that academic freedom is a right of all university staff who are engaged in teaching and research, including those who are not U.S. citizens. The Senate approved the revisions to the *Statutes* on December 6, 2010.

SP.11.02 *2010-11 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 19, 2010.

SP.11.03 *Revision to the Bylaws, Part B, Paragraph 6 – Committee on Committees Term of Office*

The Committee on Committees requested that its members start their terms at the beginning of the academic year, as other Senate committee members do, so that issues that arise over the

summer could be addressed by committee members who have served for at least a full academic year. The Senate approved the revision to the *Bylaws* on February 28, 2011.

SP.11.04 Proposed Amendments to the *Statutes* and *General Rules*

Following a referral from the University Senates Conference, USSP provided an expedited review of several amendments to the *Statutes* and *General Rules* as initiated by the President and Board of Trustees. The amendments sought to change the title of the chancellor to “Vice President/Chancellor,” modify the portfolio of an existing vice president, and establish an additional new vice president as well as other modifications in an effort to “streamline university administration and operations.” While USSP was distressed with the rushed schedule for consideration of the proposal and had reservations about its necessity, it focused on a technical review of the amendments to alert the Senate to any possible unintended consequences. The Senate approved the report and recommendations of USSP on November 8, 2010.

SP.11.05 Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article II, Section 6 – Nominating Procedures

The *Constitution* specified that the nominating ballot shall contain “the names of all those eligible to vote in the unit” while the *Senate Election Rules* revision adopted by the Senate on October 4, 2010 provided that a unit may choose to prepare a nominating ballot that either “contains the names of all members of the faculty except those who are unwilling to serve” or “contains the names of the members of the faculty who have expressed a willingness to serve.” USSP recommended a revision to the *Constitution* to clearly authorize both alternatives. The Senate approved the revision to the *Constitution* on February 28, 2011.

SP.11.06 Proposed *Standing Rule 14* – Setting the Agenda for Senate Meetings

In response to a question that arose about the Senate Executive Committee’s (SEC) authority over the placement of items on the Senate’s agenda, USSP re-examined the *Bylaws* and determined that the *Bylaws* require the SEC to place on the Senate agenda all those items which are submitted to it by any Senator or senate committee for the next Senate meeting, unless the requestor identifies a later date. To codify this finding, USSP recommended that a new *Standing Rule* (#14) be adopted. The proposal also established a reasonable deadline that would give senators and committees clear notice of the time and date when they could submit an item for inclusion on the agenda of the next Senate meeting, while also providing SEC the time needed to assemble that agenda. The Senate approved the proposed addition to the *Standing Rules* on February 28, 2011.

B. Items presented to the Senate for information.

SP.11.01 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 19, 2010.

C. Items removed from the Committee agenda.

SP.11.14 Appointment of 2011-12 Senate Parliamentarians

This has been accomplished. The parliamentarians are Ken Andersen and George Friedman. Gay Miller has agreed to serve as intern.

SP.11.07 Information Technology: Provisional Electronic Communications Policy

The Chair of the Senate Committee on Information Technology forwarded to USSP a document it had received entitled “Provisional Electronic Communications Policy.” USSP reviewed the Provisional Policy because it was purportedly based on the *General Rules*. USSP communicated several editorial corrections to the Committee on Information Technology and made special note of concern that one provision in the document made far too sweeping of a claim of ownership of the content of all communications, which is contrary to existing provisions in the *General Rules*.

SP.11.09 Delegation to Council of Academic Professionals of Conducting the Process for Distribution and Collection of Documents for the Determination of Eligibility Academic Professionals in Electorate OAS-D to Vote

USSP received a request from the Council of Academic Professionals (CAP) to delegate the administration of matters relating to the election of the seven academic professional senators. USSP reaffirmed the delegation and noted that they would like to receive a report from CAP at the conclusion of this year's nominations and election of academic professional members.

SP.11.11 Request to Establish an Undergraduate Major in Informatics

John Unsworth, Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences (GSLIS), requested an opinion on whether the Task Force appointed by the Provost's Office to explore issues with the proposal to establish an undergraduate major in Informatics may be exercising the responsibilities that are charged to the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EP). USSP determined that EP could proceed with evaluating the proposal while waiting for the report from the Task Force although it was noted that EP may have reservations about investing time in evaluating a policy that may not receive funding from the Provost's Office.

SP.11.13 Proposed Amendments to the *General Rules*, Article II, Sections 4, 5, and 6

USSP reviewed a series of proposed amendments to the *General Rules*, Article II, Sections, 4, 5, and 6 relating to contracts and offered comments to the Senate Executive Committee and University Senates Conference.

D. Items to be carried over to 2011-2012.

SP.11.08 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.7(d) – Conference on Conduct Governance

The Graduate College requested for a representative to have a seat on the Conference on Conduct Governance (CCG). The *Bylaws* provide for "four members from among the administrative officers of the campus" to be members of CCG. USSP suggested a revision to the *Bylaws* to specify that one of these four persons be selected as a representative of undergraduate students (as happens to be the case now), and another as a representative of graduate students.

SP.11.12 Revision to the *Standing Rules Regarding Public and Open Meetings Act*

It has come to the attention of USSP that current Senate rules on open meetings may not conform to the latest revision of the State Open Meetings Act. USSP will discuss this issue and, if necessary, draft new rules in the fall semester.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES
William Maher, Chair
H. George Friedman
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Christopher Kunzweiler
Melissa Madsen
Anna-Maria Marshall
Alec Meyerholz
Kristine Campbell, *Observer*
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