

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures
SP.12.11, Annual Report for 2011-2012
(Final; Information)

In addition to this report, the Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) considered fourteen items this year including three 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.11.08 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.7(d) – Conference on Conduct Governance Membership

The Graduate College requested that a representative have a seat on the Conference on Conduct Governance (CCG). CCG makes conduct rules that apply to the entire campus, and the concern expressed by Dean Debasish Dutta is that graduate students “have unique rules that apply to them as a population.” While many of these rules are academic and not conduct, and thus not within the jurisdiction of CCG, the different perspective of graduate students seemed important in the drafting of conduct rules. Accordingly, USSP prepared a revision to the *Bylaws* which the Senate approved on October 3, 2011.

SP.11.12 Revisions to the *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules* Regarding Illinois Open Meetings Act Compliance

Based on the Attorney General’s *Guide to the Illinois Open Meetings Act* and an Illinois appellate court opinion in *Board of Regents v. Reynard* (292 Ill.App.3d 968, 4th District, 1997), it appeared that the University of Illinois Academic Senate, including its committees and subcommittees, may be “public bodies” within the meaning of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules* were amended to reflect the Senate’s compliance with the Open Meetings Act. The Senate approved the revisions to the *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules* on January 30, 2012.

SP.12.02 2011-12 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 18, 2011.

SP.12.07 Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II, Section 2 – University Senates Conference (Campus Rotation of Leadership Positions)

The UIS Senate approved a resolution to revise the *Statutes* in regards to the campus rotation of leadership positions in the University Senates Conference (USC). In response to this resolution, USC unanimously approved a statement to support the principle of rotating the leadership positions among the three campuses, but did not support codifying the rotation in the *Statutes*. On January 30, 2012, the Senate approved USSP’s recommendation to concur with USC’s statement to not support codifying this rotation in the *Statutes*.

SP.12.08 Adjustment of Numbers Used in Calculating Size of Faculty Voting Units

According to the *Constitution*: “A voting unit having seven members of the faculty electorate is entitled to elect one senator from its membership. For each 12 members of the faculty electorate over the initial seven, the unit shall elect an additional senator.” USSP determined that an adjustment needed to be made in the numbers used to determine the size of faculty voting units because the current formula would have resulted in a faculty senator membership of 169 rather than the 200 desired by the *Constitution*. USSP recommended the adjustment of 5 and 10 in place of the numbers of 7 and 12 to arrive at a faculty electorate as close to 200 as possible. The Senate approved the adjustment to the numbers on January 30, 2012.

SP.12.09 Re-Authorizing the Campus Student Election Commission to Conduct Student Senator Elections

The Illinois Student Senate's (ISS) committee on student elections conducted a review of the relationship between the ISS, the UIUC Senate, and the Student Election Commission, and determined that it would be appropriate to continue the relationship and authorization of the Commission to conduct student elections. Additionally, USSP and ISS recommended that authorization be provided by the UIUC Senate, insofar as no record could be found that the relationship had been officially reviewed by the Senate in twenty years. On April 30, 2012, the Senate reauthorized the Campus Student Election Commission to conduct student elections.

SP.12.10 Revisions to the *Senate Election Rules for the Student Electorate*

During the 2011 spring student election, the student body approved a new set of governing documents for the Illinois Student Senate (ISS). These new documents explicitly bound the ISS to conform to the *Senate Election Rules for the Student Electorate*, while simultaneously making other changes which placed the *Rules* at odds with the new ISS rules. The ISS endorsed multiple changes to the *Senate Election Rules for the Student Electorate* through the passage of ISS Resolutions IA.2012.01, IA.2012.02, and IA.2012.07, and the USSP *ad-hoc* committee recommended several remedies, and. The Senate approved the recommended revisions to the *Senate Election Rules for the Student Electorate* on April 30, 2012.

B. Items presented to the Senate for information.

SP.12.01 Faculty, AP 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 18, 2011.

C. Items removed from the Committee agenda.

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

On February 28, 2011, the Senate had approved a revision to the *Constitution* in regard to Nomination Procedures for Senate elections. The amendment would have allowed units to use either the present option of a ballot listing the names of all those willing to serve or a ballot listing all members of the faculty except those unwilling to serve. After the amendment was forwarded to the Board of Trustees for review as per *Statutes*, Article II, Section 1.A, the Chairman of the Board requested that the Board defer action on the item. Subsequently, USSP has been attempting to have a direct conversation with the Chairman to clarify the UIUC Senate's circumstances and past practices with nominations. However, scheduling conflicts prevented the holding of that conversation until July 2. The Board of Trustees approved the revision to the *Constitution* on July 19, 2012.

SP.12.05 Text of *Statutes*, Article II, Section 4

Michael Grossman, Professor Emeritus, noted some possible revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II. Upon review, USSP concluded not to propose any revisions at this time. This item was removed from the committee agenda on November 2, 2011.

SP.12.12 Appointment of 2012-13 Senate Parliamentarians

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

D. Items to be carried over to 2012-2013.

SP.12.03 Follow-Up on New Election Procedures for Other Academic Staff

Following the inaugural Spring 2011 election for Other Academic Staff (OAS) Electorate, USSP's attention was called to the wide variation among colleges in the numbers of Academic Professionals considered eligible for membership in the electorate. Accordingly,

USSP established a regular agenda item to follow the election procedures. USSP worked with members of the Council on Academic Professionals to make a presentation to the Council of Deans to encourage movement towards greater uniformity. In addition, USSP remained apprised of issues with timing of the OAS elections and instances where replacement elections had to be conducted.

SP.12.04 Allocation of Graduate College Student Senators

After a survey sent out to all graduate students on campus, USSP initiated the process outlined in the *Senate Rules for the Student Electorate* to have the Graduate College propose a plan for apportioning districts for the election of graduate student senators. This change is currently being reviewed by the Graduate College, with the expectation that an apportionment plan may be sent to USSP early in the upcoming fall semester.

SP.12.06 Proposal to Revise Senate Rules Regarding Conduct of Meetings and Formulation of Meeting Agendas

Last year, USSP conducted a review of the Senate's rules regarding the conduct of meetings and the formulation of the Senate's agenda with the goal of making the Senate's conduct of business more efficient, effective, and open. USSP identified two provisions in the *Constitution* and the *Bylaws* that, if amended, could enhance the way the Senate conducts its business. First, USSP is recommending that the quorum be adjusted from 100 senators to 75, which more closely reflects the number of senators who normally attend meetings, a guideline articulated in *Robert's Rules of Order*. In addition, USSP is recommending that senators can add new business to the agenda with a majority vote rather than a two-thirds vote. This change will make the Senate agenda more open and flexible, while the Open Meetings Act protects the Senate from voting on any new business introduced at a meeting. USSP has drafted a proposal making these revisions and plans to place it on the agenda for the first Senate meeting.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

William Maher, Chair
Nikita Borisov
H. George Friedman
Piyush Gupta
Melissa Madsen
Anna-Maria Marshall
Jim Maskeri
Ann Reisner
Charles Evans, *Observer*
Sandy Jones, *Ex officio*
Jenny Roether, *Ex officio*