

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures
SP.16.16, Annual Report for 2015-2016
(Final; Information)

In addition to this report, the Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) considered twenty-three items this year including eight 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.15.04 Proposed Revisions to the *Bylaws*, Part D.6 (b) – Committee on Committees, Membership**
- USSP proposed a revision to the *Bylaws* to codify the practice that nominees to the Committee on Committees must be senators at the time their committee term begins. The Senate approved the revision to the *Bylaws* on September 21, 2015.
- SP.15.10 Revisions to the *Senate Bylaws*, Part C, Section 4 to Conform with the Student Election Practices**
- USSP proposed a revision to the *Bylaws* to remove the clause regarding “run-off” elections for crowded ballots since there was no record of past run-offs. The Senate approved the revision to the *Bylaws* on September 21, 2015.
- SP.15.16 Proposed Revisions to the *Bylaws*, Part D.1 – Senate Executive Committee, Membership**
- USSP proposed a revision to the *Bylaws* to extend voting privileges to the Chair of the committee which performs the statutory function of the Professional Advisory Committee representing Other Academic Staff on the Senate Executive Committee. The Senate approved the revision to the *Bylaws* on September 21, 2015.
- SP.16.02 2015-16 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 20, 2015.
- SP.16.03 Revisions to the *Election Rules for the Student Electorate***
- In September 2015, the Illinois Student Senate (ISS) was presented with a choice of alternative texts to resolve the ambiguity in the language for electing student senators and recommended a revision by a vote of 21 to 8. USSP proposed a revision to the *Bylaws* with the wording recommended by ISS. The Senate approved the revision to the *Bylaws* on October 19, 2015.
- SP.16.04 Student Electorate Apportionment and the Election Procedures**
- USSP reviewed the apportionment of the student electorate in response to changes in enrollment across the colleges. USSP approved a proposed revision to the student election units jointly drafted by members of the Campus Student Election Commission and the Illinois Student Senate. The Senate approved the apportionment plan on February 8, 2016.
- SP.16.06 Transmission of Further Comments on the General Revisions to the *Statutes***
- At the December 7, 2015 Senate meeting, USSP submitted this proposal as the concluding step in its review of the 2014/15 proposals for general revisions to the *Statutes*. During the previous academic year, the Urbana-Champaign Senate had considered and passed a large number of proposed revisions to the *Statutes*. The Chicago and Springfield campuses had also considered similar amendments to the *Statutes*, some of which included different wording. The University Senates Conference (USC) had passed compromise wording and transmitted that text to the President for presentation to the Board of Trustees. This report (SP.16.06) noted that the USC’s text did not reflect the decisions of the UIUC Senate in several cases. USSP recommended that the Senate authorize the Chair of the Senate Executive Committee to draft a communication to the President for transmission to the Board of Trustees, pointing out the position of this Senate in four specific instances. The Senate adopted this report at the December 7, 2015 meeting.

SP.16.07 Amendment to the Statutes: Non-Discrimination Statement

In October 2015, Vice President for Academic Affairs Christophe Pierre forwarded several revisions to the "University of Illinois Nondiscrimination Statement" (NDS) to the University Senates Conference (USC). Those revisions were considered by USSP, which noted that proper procedures for amendments to the *Statutes* had not been followed. In this report (SP.16.07), USSP proposed, first, a statement of position that the Senate go on record as recognizing that the NDS is part of the *Statutes*, and second, that the Senate approve amendments to the NDS as part of the *Statutes*. The first proposal was approved, and the second was given first reading, at the February 8, 2016 Senate meeting. The *Statutes* amendments were given second reading and final passage (after amendments from the floor) at the March 7, 2016 meeting.

SP.16.10 Proposed Revisions to the Bylaws, Part F, Section 1 - State Universities Retirement System Members Advisory Committee (SURSMAC)

SURSMAC is an advisory committee to the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) consisting of members representing each SURS employer. The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign is authorized to have four representatives on SURSMAC. Traditionally two have been academic representatives elected by the Senate. At its June 18, 2015 meeting, SURSMAC passed a new *Constitution* specifying that the terms of each member be six years, instead of three years as previously provided. These revisions to the *Senate Bylaws* brought the *Bylaws* into agreement with the SURSMAC *Constitution*. This proposal was approved by the Senate at the April 4, 2016 meeting.

B. Items presented to the Senate for information.

SP.16.01 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 20, 2015.

C. Items scheduled for Senate action at the May 2, 2016 meeting.

SP.15.21 Revisions to the Statutes to Implement the Recommendations of the Hiring Policies and Procedures Review Committee

On March 9, 2015, the Senate passed RS.15.08 endorsing the report of the Hiring Policies and Procedures Review Committee and charging USSP with developing language for revisions to the *University Statutes* to implement the recommendations of that report. Proposed language was reported to the Senate for first reading on November 16, 2015. USSP revised the proposed amendments based on suggestions from the floor during the November 16 meeting, and presented the revised version for first reading at the April 4, 2016 Senate meeting. It will be presented for final approval at the May 2, 2016 meeting.

SP.16.09 Revisions to the Bylaws and Standing Rules - Committee on Elections and Credentials

On January 29, 1996, the Senate approved the merger of the old Committee on Elections and Credentials (EC) into the USSP Committee. However, in recent years, USSP has had a very heavy workload of proposals to amend the documents which are its primary responsibility, i.e., the *University Statutes*, the *Senate Constitution*, and the *Bylaws*. USSP noted the need for committee review of several important elections issues that it has not had time to study. Believing that there is too much work for one committee, USSP proposed that the old EC Committee be reconstituted. This report (SP.16.09) proposed the necessary amendments to the *Bylaws* and the *Standing Rules*. See SP.16.14 for companion amendments to the *Constitution*. The proposal will be presented to the Senate for approval on May 2, 2016.

SP.16.12 Amendment to the Bylaws, Part E to Establish a Joint Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Licensing and Investment

USSP and GUP developed a proposal to create a Joint Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Licensing and Investment to conduct research and provide recommendations about socially responsible business practices to the University. The proposal will be presented to the Senate for approval on May 2, 2016.

SP.16.14 Revisions to the *Senate Constitution* – Committee on Elections and Credentials

USSP proposed to recreate the Committee on Elections and Credentials (EC) in SP.16.09 which requires an amendment to the *Senate Constitution* to transition all relevant duties from USSP to EC. The proposal will be presented to the Senate on May 2, 2016 for first reading and on September 19, 2016 for second reading and final passage.

D. Items removed from the Committee agenda.

SP.13.03 Advice to the Senate Executive Committee Regarding the Conduct of Senate Meetings

This item was combined with SP.16.08 (Guidelines for Senate Meetings).

SP.16.15 Call for Volunteers to Serve as Parliamentarian

This has been accomplished. The parliamentarians are George Friedman, Sara Benson, and Brian Gaines.

E. Items to be carried over to 2016-2017.

SP.14.06 Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the *Statutes*

On June 21, 2013, the University Senates Conference (USC) requested that the *Statutes* be revised to articulate a means whereby the USC may initiate amendments to the *Statutes*. The Senate approved an alternate formulation of these revisions to the *Statutes* on November 18, 2013, which has since been incorporated into the general revisions of the *Statutes* referenced in SP.16.06 above.

SP.15.08 Proposed Revisions to the *Constitution*, Article II, Section 1.b – Faculty Representation and Article III, Section 1.b – Other Academic Staff Representation

Following the 2014 issuance of Provost Communication #25 relating to specialized faculty, USSP discussed the Communication's creation of new titles for non-tenure system faculty and the resultant implications for the role of specialized faculty in the Senate. The *Senate Constitution* does not fully address the role that specialized faculty have played in representing some units or their relation to tenure system faculty and Other Academic Staff representation in the Senate. Seeking guidance from the Senate, USSP proposed four possible strategies for representation of specialized faculty in the Senate, and sponsored a Committee of the Whole discussion of these possibilities at the March 7, 2016 Senate meeting. USSP continues to work on a proposal to the Senate about the role of specialized faculty in the Senate.

SP.15.11 Revision to *Standing Rule 5* – Open Meetings Regulations

USSP has been asked to consider a proposal to amend the *Standing Rules* to permit e-mail discussions of matters before the Senate in a way that is consistent with the demands of the Open Meetings Act. USSP met with a representative of the Legal Counsel's office and is awaiting further guidance.

SP.16.05 Proposed Revisions to the *Bylaws*, Part D.1 – Senate Executive Committee – to address membership composition

USSP has begun discussion of the membership composition of the Senate Executive Committee.

SP.16.08 Guidelines for Senate Meetings

USSP was asked by the Chair of the Senate Executive Committee to provide suggestions on logistics of Senate meetings in relation to the use/non-use of Power Point overhead slides from Senate members in the course of debates. To this question, it has added the matters previously carried under SP.13.03.

SP.16.11 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.2 – Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure

The Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure requested the addition of a non-tenure track faculty member to its committee membership. USSP will forward this *Bylaws* revision to the Senate in the fall semester.

SP.16.13

Concerns with the Relation Between Collective Bargaining Agreements and the *Statutes*

USSP has been asked by a Senator to consider whether the Senate should be presented with a resolution calling for matters covered in the *Statutes* not to be subject to collective bargaining agreements.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

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