

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**

Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures  
**SP.18.19, Annual Report for 2017-2018**  
(Final; Information)

In addition to this report, the Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) considered twenty-six 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.14.06      Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference or the President to initiate revisions to the *Statutes***

A revision to the *Statutes* was proposed that would provide additional ways to amend the *Statutes*, including adding methods by which both the University Senates Conference (USC) and the President could initiate *Statutes* revisions. Originally, the Senate passed this proposal on November 18, 2013. It was then revised with input from USC and returned to the senates in a modified form in 2017, and the UIUC passed a new version on December 11, 2017. However, this version was not passed by the UIC Senate, so a reconciled version was reconsidered in 2018. The Senate approved the reconciled version to revise the *Statutes* on April 2, 2018.

**SP.15.08      Proposed Revisions to the Senate *Constitution* and *Bylaws* to provide representation for Specialized Faculty**

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 *Constitution* did not at that time 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. With guidance from the Senate, USSP proposed changing the definition of the faculty electorate to include full-time non-tenure-track faculty. The Senate approved the revisions to the *Constitution* on April 3, 2017, which have now been approved by the Board of Trustees.

**SP.17.07      Proposed Revision to *Standing Rule 13 – Formation, Termination, Separation, Transfer, Merger, Change in Status, or Renaming of Units***

USSP met with Bettina Francis, in her capacity as Chair of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC), to discuss whether revisions were needed to *Standing Rule 13*, now that budget conditions could cause small units to unintentionally lose a significant number of faculty. This year, USSP met with Gay Miller, the subsequent Chair of EPC, to identify another issue that had arisen with regard to *Standing Rule 13*: the Rule's use of the term "statement" led some parties submitting materials to EPC to not realize that their documentation needed approval before proceeding. This revision then attempted to clean up both issues, specifying the term "proposal" throughout, and modifying the language around the impact of various changes in a unit. The Senate approved the revision to the *Standing Rules* on November 13, 2017.

**SP.17.15      Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.10 – Senate Committee on Equal Opportunity and Inclusion**

The Senate Committee on Equal Opportunity and Inclusion (EQ) has recommended that its membership be increased because of its heavy workload. USSP proposed a set of revisions to

the *Bylaws* to account for this, which increased the number of faculty from five to seven and the number of students from two to three. In addition, the proposed revision specified an *ex officio* position, to be filled by a designee of the Chancellor, in light of the new Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and adjusted the language around EQ's three additional *ex officio* members, allowing them to be non-voting and "not necessarily members of the Senate electorate." This final change was amended on the Senate floor during debate to delete the quoted language. The Senate approved the amended revision to the *Bylaws* on November 13, 2017.

**SP.18.02      2017-18 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 17, 2017. (Future reports on this subject will be issued by the newly reconstituted Committee on Elections and Credentials.)

**SP.18.03      Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.7 – Conference on Conduct Governance**

A revision to the *Bylaws* was proposed to reflect that the Office of the Dean of Students has assumed the duties formerly provided by the Office of Campus Regulations. The Senate approved the revision to the *Bylaws* on November 13, 2017.

**SP.18.06      Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.14 – Committee on Information Technology**

The Senate Committee on Information Technology requested the addition of a representative from the Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning (CITL) as an *ex officio* member for input, guidance, and comment. The Senate approved the revision to the *Bylaws* on November 13, 2017.

**SP.18.07      Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article II – Faculty Representation**

Article II of the Senate *Constitution* has included a formula for apportioning faculty representatives to the Senate, which consisted of thresholds of 7 and 12 members in a given unit to determine the allotment of seats, and the right of the Senate to adjust those numbers from time to time (most recently set to 5 and 10 in SP.12.08). Any unit with fewer faculty than the first number (originally 7, now 5) had to be combined with another unit for election of a senator. This arrangement, however, meant that smaller units may not have a senator from within their ranks. Proposal SP.18.07 removed the specifics of the apportionment formula from the *Constitution*, while retaining Senate approval of any modification to the formula, which would be brought forward by the Committee on Elections and Credentials (EC). The proposal also provided that every faculty voting unit (usually department) would elect at least one senator. In addition, the proposal deleted the requirement for a nominating ballot, which the EC Committee intends to replace with a nomination period in which nominations of persons willing to serve are submitted to the voting unit. The final election would continue to be by secret ballot. The Senate approved the revisions to the *Constitution* on March 5, 2018, and they have been forwarded to the Board of Trustees for its review.

**SP.18.09      Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article III, Section 3 – to expand representation of Academic Professionals from seven to ten Senate seats**

Academic Professionals on the Urbana campus are organized into eleven districts. Currently, each of seven of those eleven districts elect an Academic Professional (AP) to serve in the Senate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, while four of the districts are expressly excluded from eligibility. The Seventh Senate Review Commission advocated extending Senate representation to three more of these districts, excluding only the one consisting of University System employees for a total of ten AP senators. This proposal implemented that suggestion, increasing AP representation in the Senate from seven to ten.

The Senate approved the revisions to the *Constitution* on April 30, 2018, and the proposal has been forwarded to the Board of Trustees for its review.

**SP.18.11      Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.11 – Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits**

As written, the *Bylaws* call for a Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff, but the duties refer to only the current and future concerns of faculty. USSP proposed revision to the *Bylaws* includes adding “academic staff” in the duties and add an ex officio representative from the Council of Academic professionals to assure sufficient academic professional representation. In addition, since committee membership has been heavily weighted towards emeritus faculty in the last few years, USSP recommends limiting membership to one emeritus faculty member, thereby assuring benefits are being discussed for emeritus faculty, active tenure-track faculty, non-tenure-track faculty, and academic staff. The Senate approved the revision to the *Bylaws* on April 30, 2018.

**B. Items presented to the Senate for information.**

**SP.18.01      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 17, 2017. (Future reports on this subject will be issued by the newly reconstituted Committee on Elections and Credentials.)

**C. Items removed from the Committee agenda.**

**SP.17.10      Guidelines for Submission of Matters to the Senate**

The Senate Executive Committee referred to USSP a January 20, 2017 memorandum from the Senate Committee on General University Policy calling for examination of what new processes might be created or existing ones reinforced to make Senate meetings more effective and efficient. As a result, USSP developed a concise explanation of how Senate agenda items are to be submitted, the process for routing resolutions through committees, and how to submit prefiled resolutions to the Senate Executive Committee. The document also provides recommendations on how to prepare an effective resolution. The final document will be sent to the Senate Executive Committee as a memo, will be used at the Senate organizational meeting, and will be made available on the Senate website.

**SP.18.04      Revisions to the *Bylaws*, Part B.6 – Senate Committees (specify when responsibilities begin for new chairs)**

USSP was asked to consider whether the Senate *Constitution* and *Bylaws* are sufficiently clear on the question of exactly when the terms of office of committee chairs begin in a new academic year. After considering the problem, USSP concluded that the current documents and traditional practices are sufficient, and that no new legislation is needed.

**SP.18.08      Revisions to the *Election Rules for the Faculty Electorate***

USSP reviewed a draft of new *Election Rules for the Faculty Electorate* prepared by the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials (EC), and suggested some revisions. Ultimately, it was decided between USSP and EC that EC would present the matter to the Senate (EC.18.04).

**SP.18.10      Review of XSR.18.01, Report of the Seventh Senate Review Implementation Committee**

At its January 29, 2018 meeting, the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) directed USSP to review XSR.18.01, examining the report to determine items that had been completed, those that still needed to be addressed, and those that needed to be directed to other committees or individuals. Broadly, USSP found that most of the recommendations had either been or were in the process of being implemented and encouraged the Senate Committee on Educational

Policy to work more closely with the Office of Admissions as well as advocating for the SEC Vice Chair to coordinate the collection of annual reports from Senate committees at the end of the academic year. In addition, USSP has opened a new proposal, SP.18.15, which will become a handbook for senators about the Senate's structures and documentation, per the recommendation of XSR.18.01.

**SP.18.17      Call for Volunteers to Serve as Parliamentarian**

This has been accomplished. The parliamentarians are George Friedman, Brian Gaines, and Jeffrey Stein.

**SP.18.20      Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.19 – Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures**

USSP discussed a revision to the *Bylaws* to add an *ex officio* position, designated by the Office of the President, to its membership. After consultation, it was determined not to move forward with the proposed revision so the proposal was withdrawn.

**D. Items to be carried over to 2018-2019.**

**SP.17.12      Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 2 – Academic Freedom**

Amendments to the *Statutes'* academic freedom provisions in order to fill a gap that had been created by the Supreme Court's ruling in Garcetti v. Ceballos were approved by the UIUC Senate in November 2010 and transmitted to the University Senates Conference (USC). Following their approval by the other two Senates, the amendments were transmitted to the President. In response to concerns raised, the amendments were returned for modifications which then were approved by the UIUC Senate in November 2014. After the other Senates approved this new formulation, they were forwarded to the President. However, University Counsel raised some concerns and the USC asked USSP to work with the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure to determine if alternative language can be developed. Accordingly, USSP met with members of the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure and separately with University Counsel and Executive Vice President Barbara Wilson. Executive Vice President Wilson asked Counsel to draft language to forward to USSP to consider. University Counsel is currently in the process of drafting modified language and USSP will continue to work with them and Executive Vice President Wilson to determine if any new language might address the concerns from Garcetti as well as Counsel.

**SP.18.05      Revisions to the *Bylaws*, Part E.2 – Faculty Advisory Committee (pending approval of SP.15.13)**

The approval of SP.15.13 by the Board of Trustees will create a mismatch between the *Statutes* and our Senate's *Bylaws*. The proposed revisions in SP.18.05 will align the language regarding the Faculty Advisory Committee in our *Bylaws* with the *Statutes*.

**SP.18.12      Revision to the *Constitution*, Article I, Section 5**

In October 2012, the Senate passed a proposal (SP.12.06) to amend the *Constitution* to change the quorum requirement for Senate meetings from 100 to 75. This amendment was never put on the agenda of the Board of Trustees for approval, and so was never implemented. USSP decided to reinstate this amendment, or something similar. In the course of committee discussion, it was decided to propose moving the quorum requirement from the *Constitution* to the *Bylaws*, because it is the sort of detail that does not need to be in the *Constitution*. USSP is also considering other detail provisions that might more appropriately be moved from the *Constitution* to the *Bylaws*.

**SP.18.13      Proposed Revisions to the *General Rules*, Article III – Intellectual Property**

In February 2018, USSP was asked to put a placeholder on its agenda for a proposed set of revisions (GR-46) Article III of the *General Rules*, which is the only portion of the *General Rules* that goes to the senates for their approval. These revisions primarily address (1) changing the role of the vice president of research to the new vice president for economic development and innovation, and (2) incorporating the new system/university language being adopted across all system governance documents. This item was referred to the Senate Committee on General University Policy for its comment. At its April 30 meeting, the Senate approved the recommendation to defer final action pending further study and possible modification.

**SP.18.14 Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4 – Changes in Existing Units**

Recent events around the renaming of a UIUC college for a donor have led to discussions between members of USSP and the administration about proper procedure. The *Statutes* in Article VIII specify procedures for changes in organization of academic units, including renaming, but it is argued that the addition of an eponymous name to an existing unit is not a change in organization, and that more streamlined procedures should be followed. USSP is still discussing possible changes to the *Statutes* to apply in this type of case.

**SP.18.15 Senate Handbook**

Senate staff is in the process of collecting previous material used to orient senators, so that USSP can begin creating a handbook about the Senate's bodies, processes, and documentation. This item follows on SP.18.10 (XSR.18.01).

**SP.18.16 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.1 – Senate Executive Committee**

USSP is discussing a revision to the *Bylaws* to specify that members of the Senate Executive Committee can only hold one seat concurrently, because this can create problems of representation and establishing quorum.

**SP.18.18 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.8 – Senate Committee on Educational Policy**

USSP is discussing a revision to the *Bylaws* to add one seat for an academic professional committee member on the Senate Committee on Educational Policy

**SP.18.21 Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.18 – Committee on University Senates Conference**

USSP is discussing a revision to the *Bylaws* to specify that those elected be senators at the time their University Senates Conference term begins.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

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William Stevan  
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Jenny Roether, *Ex officio*  
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