

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures  
(First Reading; Information)

SP.19.12 Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4 – Changes in Existing Units

**BACKGROUND**

At its November 12, 2018 meeting, the Senate approved a proposed revision to the *University Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4, establishing two tracks for the renaming of academic units. That proposal, SP.18.14 included a background which read in part:

It has become clear that the current language did not anticipate the need to change the names of academic units to recognize financial donors or honor distinguished individuals. This gap in the *Statutes* has led to somewhat conflicting guidance in the *General Rules* and Campus Administrative Manual, as well as to differing understandings of the lines of consultation required in various types of renaming. The proposed language below specifies and separates the renaming of units into two cases: (1) those reflecting a change in the organization of a unit, and (2) those meant to recognize financial donors or honor distinguished individuals. In the first case, this revision states more clearly the current statutory logic for instances of renaming tied to organization or disciplinary change. In the second case, this revision spells out a streamlined path for the approval of the eponymous naming of academic units, while maintaining input from the faculty and the Senate in the process.

This set of proposed changes has been developed concurrently with discussions between representatives from the Senate Committees on University Statutes and Senate Procedures, General University Policy, and the Joint Advisory Committee on Investment, Licensing, and Naming Rights, meeting over the last year with the Office of the Provost, University Counsel, the University Foundation, and others. The administration has developed interim procedures, set out in the Campus Administrative Manual, to attempt to honor the logic presented here. Should this set of revisions ultimately be approved by the Board of Trustees, other modifications will be necessary to other policy documents to ensure that this process is consistently expressed across our governing documents.

Since the passage of SP.18.14, it has become clear that one additional option should be spelled out in the *Statutes*, so that each Senate can exercise flexibility in how it implements the second naming option (Article VIII, Section 4.b.2). This addition in lines 31-32 specifies that a Senate may delegate portions of the renaming process to a committee, provided that the committee has clear conditions which must be approved by the Senate. This addition allows each Senate latitude when dealing with the coordination and flow of the wide variety of renaming efforts.

Because this is a modification to a previously-passed proposal, the Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures re-presents the language changes from SP.18.14, only additionally modifying “which” to “that” in line 13, “shift” to “change” in line 19, and striking “by vote” in line 30 to clarify (presented in **bold**, along with the new modification in Article VIII, Section 4.b.2, lines 31-32), and recommends that this new document *supersede* the previous.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revisions to the *Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4.

Text to be added is underscored and text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~. New changes since SP.18.14 are shown in **bold**.

### PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE *STATUTES*, ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 4

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#### ARTICLE VIII. CHANGES IN ACADEMIC ORGANIZATION UNITS

##### 4 Section 4. Changes in the Organization and Naming of Existing Units

5 a. From time to time, circumstances will favor changes in academic organization such as  
6 the termination, separation, transfer, merger, or change in status (e.g., department to  
7 school), ~~or renaming~~ of the academic units specified in Section ~~4~~ 3. The procedures for  
8 the various changes shall be the same as those specified for formation of such a unit,  
9 except that the proposal may originate in the unit(s) or at any higher administrative  
10 level. The advice of each unit involved shall be taken and recorded by vote of the  
11 faculty by secret written ballot in accordance with the bylaws of that unit. For transfer,  
12 merger, separation, and change in status, the procedures shall be those applicable to the  
13 type of unit ~~which that~~ would result. Units affected may communicate with the Board  
14 of Trustees in accordance with Article XIII, Section 4, of these *Statutes*.

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16 b. Academic Units specified in Section 3 may be renamed in either of two ways:

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18 (1) If the renaming is related to a change in academic organization (as in Section 4.a) or  
19 changes in a discipline or its terminology (e.g., a **shift change** from “communications”  
20 to “media” or from “commerce” to “business”), the procedures shall be the same as  
21 those specified for formation of such a unit, except that the proposal may originate in  
22 the unit(s) or at any higher administrative level. The advice of each unit involved shall  
23 be taken and recorded by vote of the faculty by secret written ballot in accordance with  
24 the bylaws of that unit.

25  
26 (2) If the renaming involves only the addition of an eponym (e.g., the name of an  
27 alumnus, donor, person, or entity), the proposal may originate in the unit or at any  
28 higher administrative level. The advice of the unit to be renamed shall be taken and  
29 recorded by vote of the faculty by secret written ballot in accordance with the bylaws of  
30 that unit, and the advice ~~by vote~~ of the appropriate senate shall be taken and recorded  
31 by a vote of the senate. **The senate may delegate its advisory vote to a committee**  
32 **under conditions established by the senate.**  
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