

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
(Final; Action)

CC.22.01 Election of the 2021-2022 Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Chair

BACKGROUND

The Senate Executive Committee shall initiate and guide the work of the Senate; coordinate and evaluate the activities of the Senate committees; prepare the agenda for Senate meetings; schedule and supervise the organizing of the Senate in accordance with Part A of the Senate *Bylaws*; nominate members of the Committee on Committees; provide advice annually, as requested, to the Chancellor on the annual appointment of the vice chancellors; provide advice annually to the President on the annual appointment of the Chancellor; review Campus Budget Oversight Committee, Research Board, and Research Policy Committee nominees; and perform such other duties as the *Statutes* or Senate shall specify.

The Chair of the Senate Executive Committee shall establish and maintain liaison with the offices of the President of the System and the Board of Trustees on matters of major concern to the Senate.

The Chair and a Vice-Chair, elected by and from among the membership of the Senate, and who shall be the presiding officers of the Senate Executive Committee.

NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Committees nominates the following senator for a one-year term as Chair of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) ending in 2022. A statement of interest is included. If there are no nominations from the floor, the following nominee will be declared elected.

Robin Bradley Kar (Professor, LAW)

All nominations submitted from the Senate floor must include 1) Nominee's name, 2) Nominee's statement of willingness to serve, and 3) a 200 words or less statement of interest and experience. Nominees must be a senator at the time their term begins. Nominations from the floor can be presented solely in written form, in the same manner as the slate brought forward by Committee on Committees.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
Chaya Sandler, Chair
Creen Ahmad
Rummana Alam

Laura Christianson
John Dallesasse
Abby Fogarty
Laura Garrett
Jeffrey Eric Jenkins
Sudarshana Rao
Jenny Roether, *ex officio*

STATEMENT OF INTEREST AND EXPERIENCE

Rob Kar (Professor, LAW)

Professor Kar is a Professor of Law, with a joint appointment in Philosophy. He has a BA, in philosophy, magna cum laude (Harvard); a JD from Yale Law School; and a PhD in Philosophy (University of Michigan). He clerked for the Honorable Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

He was SEC Chair for the past two academic years, and Vice Chair for the preceding year. He is currently Vice Chair for University Senates Conference at the system level. Though two years may be enough time for any one person to serve in this role, COVID has created unusual circumstances and some continuity in leadership may be useful for another year. Kar is therefore willing to serve if the Senate would like him to continue.

During his tenure as SEC Chair, Kar has helped develop and adapt mechanisms to ensure a strong voice for shared governance during the COVID-19 pandemic. He has also engaged in numerous other campus and system-level service or leadership positions. For some examples: Kar chaired the Committee on Faculty Sexual Misconduct, which produced substantial recommendations to reorganize the University's responses to sexual misconduct. He has served on University Senates Conference for several years, participated in the naming rights working group, helped develop and draft system-wide comments and objections to the Department of Education's proposed Title IX regulations, and helped manage the production of system-level guiding principles to foster healthy relationships across the campuses. He is a member of the AAUP Policy Committee.

In all these positions, Kar has sought to empower faculty and senators by guiding their engagement and representation in broader campus and system-wide efforts. He views his leadership style as emphasizing an ability to listen carefully to senators' (sometimes conflicting) views; and then helping ensure senators can make their views as effective as possible to ensure the Senate is placed in the best position possible to exert its will in an informed manner--all without taking sides on substance. If elected, Kar would continue those efforts next year.

Kar's academic expertise includes the evolution of morality; the prehistory of social complexity; religious tolerance; race in the genomic age; contract law and theory; history of same-sex marriage law; the impact of the digital world on traditional systems of private ordering; and sexual harassment law and policy. Recently, Kar has begun teaching seminars in the law and policy of higher education, thus adding an additional expertise that is relevant to this position.