Proposed Revisions to the Statutes, Article I, Section 5 – Chancellors and Vice Presidents; Article II, Section 3a(1) – Faculty Role in Governance; and Article III, Section 1g – The University

BACKGROUND

Articles II and III of the Statutes specify that the faculty of the university includes those administrators who are in the direct line of responsibility for academic affairs, specifically directors, deans, the provost (vice chancellor for academic affairs), chancellor/vice president, and president. Department chairs and heads are not specified in this direct line of responsibility in II.3, though their duties in Article IV indicate such responsibilities.

The Statutes also specify that at least once every five years there shall be evaluations of the department chair (Article IV, Section 2a), the department head (Article IV, Section 3a), the dean of a college (Article III, Section 3b), and the campus librarian (Article VI, Paragraph e). The Statutes do not currently provide for regular evaluations of the vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost and only recently (ST-77, approved by the Board of Trustees in November 2020) provide for a “formal review” of the chancellor/vice president.

The following proposed revisions to Statutes would establish clearer language, addressing both matters, establishing and clarifying the senate’s role in the advice and review process of appointing and retaining chancellors, vice chancellors, and provosts. They also clarify the role of department chairs and heads in the direct line of responsibility for academic affairs. Evaluation of an administrator, especially one who is in the direct line of responsibility for academic affairs, is essential for the good of an organization, giving members of the organization an opportunity to voice their suggestions and recommendations. The proposed policy changes are not directed at any individuals currently in these affected positions. SP recommends, therefore, that a performance evaluation be implemented at least once every five years after the next initial appointment of the vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost or the chancellor/vice president, unless the incumbent vice chancellor or chancellor agrees otherwise. We further recommend that each university develop general procedures to guide it in its implementation of the evaluation.

RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revisions to the Statutes, Article I, Section 5; Article II, Section 3a(1); and Article III, Section 1g. Text to be deleted is struck through and text to be added is underlined.
PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE STATUTES, ARTICLE I, SECTION 5

ARTICLE I. SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

Section 5. Chancellors/Vice Presidents

There shall be a chancellor at each university of the University of Illinois System who shall also be a vice president of the system (chancellor/vice president). The chancellor/vice president, under the direction of the president, shall serve as the chief executive officer for the university. The chancellor/vice president shall perform such duties as may be delegated and assigned by the president and may be consistent with the Statutes of the University of Illinois System, The General Rules, and actions of the Board of Trustees. As system officers, the chancellors/vice presidents have responsibility for advising and working with the president and other system officers to advance the well-being of the entire system as well as their own individual university.

The chancellor/vice president shall be appointed annually by the Board of Trustees on the recommendation of the president, after confidential consultation with the executive committee of the senate or in a manner to be determined by the senate. On the occasion of Prior to the initial appointment of a new chancellor/vice president, or a formal review of an incumbent chancellor/vice president, the president shall have the advice of a committee that is selected by the senate of the university concerned shall advise the president on the appointment. In preparing its advice, the committee may seek the counsel of other university bodies regarding criteria for the selection of candidates. The performance of the chancellor/vice president shall be evaluated formally at least once every five years in a manner to be determined by the senate, in consultation with the president.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE STATUTES, ARTICLE II, SECTION 3a(1)

Article II. LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION

Section 3. Faculty Role in Governance

a. (1) The faculty of the University of Illinois System and any of its units except for the Graduate College consists of those members of the academic staff with the rank or title in that unit of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor who are tenured or receiving probationary
credit toward tenure, and those administrators in the direct line of responsibility for academic affairs (persons who hold the title chair or head of a department, director or dean in of an academic unit, provost or equivalent officer, chancellor/vice president, and president).

Administrative staff members not in the direct line of responsibility for academic affairs are members of the faculty only if they also hold faculty appointments. The bylaws of any academic unit may further mandate a minimum percentage faculty appointment in that unit for specified faculty privileges, such as voting privileges.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE STATUTES, ARTICLE III, SECTION 1g

ARTICLE III. UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, AND SIMILAR UNIVERSITY UNITS

Section 1. The University

g. Vice chancellors shall be appointed annually by the Board of Trustees on the recommendations of by the chancellor/vice president and the president, after confidential consultation with the executive committee of the senate or in a manner to be determined by the senate. The chancellor/vice president shall on the occasion of each appointment seek the advice of the executive committee of the senate. Prior to the initial appointment of the vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, a committee that is selected by the senate shall advise the chancellor/vice president on the appointment. In preparing its advice, the executive committee may seek the counsel of other university bodies in preparing its advice regarding criteria for the selection of candidates. The performance of the vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost shall be evaluated formally at least once every five years in a manner to be determined by the senate, in consultation with the chancellor.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

Shawn Gilmore, Chair Collin Ruud
Walter Deering Joyce Tolliver
H. George Friedman Kelli Trei
Michael Grossman Jessica Mette, ex officio
Kassim Jaffer Sharon Reynolds, ex officio
William Maher Jenny Roether, ex officio