



University Senates Conference
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Re: Proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 following ST-77)

Dear colleagues:

Attached is a second round of proposed revisions to the University *Statutes*, following the recent, major set of ST-77 changes that your senate already reviewed and approved.

Consistent with the University of Illinois *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8, these changes were developed collaboratively by a committee that included members of the USC Statutes and Governance Committee, along with representatives of the President's office, including Executive Vice President Barbara Wilson, and representatives from University Counsel and System HR.

The high points of the proposed changes are noted below:

- A critically important proposed revision, new in Article 2, Section 1, clarifies the definitions of faculty and staff positions, including placing non-tenure system colleagues into the definition of faculty for the first time. It also lays out the implications of this inclusion for governance and other issues.
- These proposed changes remove the vague term “academic staff,” which is currently used inconsistently to refer to different groups of employees in different places in the *Statutes* (sometimes including faculty, for example, and sometimes not). The term “academic staff” is not a System HR category.
- The current *Statutes* separate “Administrative and Academic Staff.” The proposed revisions make clear that administrative and academic categories each include both faculty and staff. In general, “faculty and staff” becomes the more useful guiding distinction throughout the *Statutes*.
- Article 2, Section 2, adds an important new proposed definition of the senate's role: “The senate is the sole elected assembly jointly representing the faculty, students, academic professionals, and others it deems eligible to participate in shared governance discussions across the full range of university concerns.”

- Article 2, Section 6, adds new proposed definitions for the different categories of staff.
- Article 2, Section 8, includes clearer proposed definitions of *visiting* faculty and staff.
- Articles IX and X were completely reorganized for greater consistency and clarity. There were some sections in one article that clearly belonged in the other, and vice versa. The content is mostly the same, simply reshuffled for better organization and topical coherence. Where changes were proposed, they are marked as such. (Attached is a marked-up pdf that shows the details of the reorganization.)

These changes are extensive and important. We appreciate your taking the time to consider them. The role of the senates in the review of statutory changes is laid out in Article XIII, Section 8.

Sincerely,



Robin B. Kar, Chair
University Senates Conference



Nicholas C. Burbules, Chair
USC Statutes and Governance Committee

Enclosure

cc: Elizabeth Dooley, UIC Senate Clerk
Brenda Hunsley, UIS Senate Clerk
Jenny Roether, UIUC Senate Clerk
Members, University Senates Conference