SP.24.01

Proposed Revision to the Constitution, Article IV – Student Representation

BACKGROUND
The Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials (EC) recommends that the student electorate language in the Constitution be simplified to indicate that students eligible to vote in the student electorate must be seeking a degree (Section 1), and students eligible to be elected as student senators must be seeking a degree (Section 2).

In addition, EC proposes to remove Section 8 in Article IV of the Constitution. Section 8 refers to the University of Illinois Chicago College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign, which has been closed. The Carle Illinois College of Medicine, in its place, shall be treated as all other colleges and does not need to be specified in the Constitution.

For terminology consistency throughout Senate governing documents, EC also proposes substituting the term “voting unit” for the term “election unit”.

RECOMMENDATION
The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends the approval of the following proposed revision to the Constitution. Text to be deleted is struck through and text to be added is underlined. Adoption of amendments to the Constitution requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

REVISION TO THE CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE IV – Student Representation

1. Article IV – Student Representation
2. Section 1. The student electorate shall consist of all persons individuals actively seeking a degree on this campus at this University who meet the eligibility requirements for voting and who are not members of the faculty or academic professional any other Senate electorate. Eligibility for voting shall require that the student be:
   a. in residence, and
   b. pursuing a degree.
3. In addition, members of the student electorate eligible for nomination and election to the Senate shall be:
a. Undergraduate students, taking a minimum of 12 hours for credit; or
b. Professional students, taking a minimum of 8 hours for credit; or
c. Graduate students, taking a minimum of 8 hours for credit, or registered for thesis credit, or taking fewer than 8 hours but more than 0 hours for credit and having at least a one-half time appointment to the campus academic staff.

Section 2. Any member of the student electorate shall be eligible for nomination and election to the Senate if, at the time of nomination and election, the student is making satisfactory progress towards a degree, as certified by the student's academic dean. The Nomination and election requirements and procedures shall be as provided by the Senate, consistent with the provisions of this Article.

Section 3. The total number of senators elected from the student electorate shall be as close to fifty as possible, with each college or its equivalent entitled to elect at least one senator. They shall be elected from student election units as provided in this Article. Prior to each election, the Senate shall determine the number of senators to be elected from each student election voting unit, as provided in this Article. This determination shall be based, insofar as feasible, on each unit's proportional share of those students eligible for nomination and election to the Senate, provided, however, that each college or its equivalent shall be entitled to elect at least one senator.

Section 4. Student election voting units shall be comprised of the major academic divisions, normally the colleges or their equivalent or subdivisions thereof. Insofar as feasible, the larger academic divisions shall be subdivided into smaller student election voting units, based on related subject matter areas. Undergraduate students, graduate students, and professional students shall be grouped separately, and shall vote only for the senators only from their respective groups voting unit.
Section 5. The terms of senators elected from the student electorate shall be one year, with a maximum of six consecutive terms. Unless the Senate provides otherwise, special elections shall not be held to fill vacancies.

Section 6. The elected head of the student body, or the elected head of the undergraduate student body and the elected head of the graduate student body, shall have ex officio membership in the Senate during concurrent tenure of as the elected office head and membership in the student electorate. If such a person is or becomes an elected member of the Senate, then that person shall not be deprived of voting rights as a senator.

Section 7. A student senator can be recalled by a vote of two-thirds of those voting in the recall election.

Section 8. The student electorate of the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign shall be entitled to elect voting members of the Senate. The provisions of this Article, Sections 1 through 5 and 7, shall apply to these members.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES
David Dalpiaz, Chair
H. George Friedman
Shawn Gilmore
Michael Grossman
Michael Han
Kyle Johnson
William Maher
Megan Pickens
Laura Czys, ex officio
Jessica Mette, ex officio
Jenny Roether, ex officio