

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**  
COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES  
(Committee of the Whole Discussion)

SP.25.03 Committee of the Whole Discussion Regarding the Amended Proposed Revision to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 Revised)

**BACKGROUND**

In September 2021, the University Senates Conference (USC) sent a package of USC-proposed revisions to the University *Statutes* (ST-83) to the three University Senates. Following extensive deliberations, including three Committee of the Whole discussions during the 2022-23 academic year, our Senate voted to reject ST-83 at its April 1, 2024 meeting ([SP.22.01](#)), noting specific reasons for rejecting it. The Senate at Springfield voted to reject ST-83 at its March 8, 2024 meeting ([RS 53-09](#)), while also submitting suggestions for “revisions and concerns.” The Senate at Chicago did not vote on ST-83, but did submit at least one “request for modifications” on December 1, 2022.

In summary, the actions of the three Senates were:

- UIC: No vote
- UIS: Reject
- UIUC: Reject

Per the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8.a.2, paragraph 3:

If every senate acts affirmatively on the proposed amendment and concurs as to its text, the conference shall send the proposed amendment to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates of its action; the conference may append its comments. If the senates do not agree as to the proposed amendment, the conference shall endeavor to promote agreement of the senates. Where agreement cannot be effected among the senates within a reasonable period of time, but the text of a proposed amendment has been agreed upon by all but one of the senates, the conference shall send that proposed amendment, the recommendations of the dissenting senate, and its own recommendations to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates of its action. A senate may record and send its further comments to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees.

In August 2024, USC responded to these Senate actions with a revised version of ST-83 and additional feedback to the Senates. Concurrently, USC sent this revised version to the President for transmission to the Board of Trustees. USC’s submission to the Senates stated that the

Senates could submit comments to the President by December 16, 2024. According to the *Statutes*, the only action on the August 2024 version of ST-83 is for the Senate to “record and send its further comments to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees.”

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP) identified procedural concerns with this process, which it communicated via the Senate Executive Committee to USC, asking USC to rescind the current version of ST-83 from the President to the Senates. SP also notes that no version of ST-83 presented to the Senates was accompanied by a full rationale or document explaining the scope and purpose of these proposed changes as had been done with the prior package of extensive *Statutes* revisions, ST-77, which the Senates considered from 2014 to 2019.

The August 2024 version of ST-83 contains proposed revisions to many portions of the *Statutes*, many of which were present in the iteration that the Senates considered from 2021-24. Some notable potential changes that would result from the amendments include:

- altering and clarifying the definition of “faculty,”
- removing the category of “academic staff” throughout the *Statutes*,
- changing employment terms and their application,
- changing the parameters and terms around academic freedom protections, and
- restructuring Articles IX and X (including key areas that establish appointment and employment processes).

These proposed changes are interrelated across the *Statutes*, creating a variety of complications. Changes, such as alteration to the parameters of academic freedom and the creation of a system-level Professional Advisory Committee, are newly proposed in the August 2024 version of ST-83. In a departure from established practice, USC did not return these changes to the Senates for approval.

To help guide our Senate’s comments to the President on the most recent version of ST-83, SP has solicited feedback from various bodies within and outside the Senate whose domains might be affected by these changes:

- Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure
- Senate Committee on General University Policy
- Senate Committee on the Library
- Council of Academic Professionals
- Faculty Advisory Committee
- The Graduate College
- Prairie Research Institute

Responses from these groups, made available with the Senate materials, identify complications or impacts of ST-83 that led to each group’s recommendation or feedback. Please use their input to help guide your reading of the August 2024 version of ST-83.

At this stage, unless the situation changes, our Senate can only submit comments to the President. For the Senate to have a substantive set of comments on which it can vote at its next meeting in December, SP now solicits your feedback via a Committee of the Whole discussion. Please consider the following questions:

- Are there significant flaws in the existing *Statutes* (most recently revised in July 2023) that are corrected by the latest version of ST-83? Are there other flaws that are not addressed by ST-83?
- What complications or issues may be created or may remain if the latest version of ST-83 goes into effect?
- Does the Senate have concerns about matters of process and voice in shared governance?
- What specific comments—on general matters or proposed changes—in ST-83 do you want conveyed to the President for transmission to the Board of Trustees?

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

David Dalpiaz, Chair

Shawn Gilmore

Michael Grossman

William Maher

Faith Onuchukwu

Megan Pickens

Lindsey Stirek

Kelli Trei

Laura Czys, *ex officio*

Jessica Mette, *ex officio*

Jenny Roether, *ex officio*