



University Senates Conference  
378 Henry Administration Building, MC 348  
506 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

January 6, 2025

Professor Sandra De Groote, Chair  
UIC Senate Executive Committee  
University Library  
801 S Morgan St, MC 234

Professor Lynn Fisher, Chair  
UIS Senate Executive Committee  
Liberal Arts and Social Sciences  
One University Plaza, MS UHB 3038

Professor John Hale, Chair  
UIUC Senate Executive Committee  
College of Education  
1310 S 6<sup>th</sup> St, MC 708

Re: ST-83 Revision to the *Statutes*

Dear Colleagues,

On August 27, 2024, each senate received an amended version of ST-83 and a request to provide feedback to the President for transmission to the Board of Trustees no later than December 16, 2024. Following the distribution of that request, senates raised questions and articulated concerns about some amendments, making it clear that further revisions to ST-83 are needed before the President transmits it to the Board. As a result, in November, the University Senates Conference (USC) chair requested that the President return ST-83 to USC so the conference may continue to engage with the senates on revisions to the August 2024 version of the document.

At its November 21, 2024, meeting, USC agreed that the deadline for comments should be extended and that the senates' feedback should be directed to USC rather than the President so the USC can undertake further revision. At its meeting on December 20, 2024, having received the President's request to continue revisions to ST-83, USC outlined a process to engage with the senates for additional feedback to facilitate the promotion of agreement. This process is detailed in the form of a resolution proposed by the Statutes and Governance Committee of the University Senates Conference. Following broad-ranging discussion of the matter, the resolution was unanimously approved by the USC at that business meeting, and it is attached to this document.

To facilitate the next round of revisions and to minimize misunderstanding or misinterpretation, USC requests that each senate **provide an explanation** and **suggest alternative language** for those sections of the proposed revision with which the senate does not concur.

In short, USC seeks feedback from the senates to promote agreement before the document is sent to the President. As part of this process, USC asks that each senate share its response to ST-83 (revised, August 2024) with USC no later than May 15, 2025. USC will use this feedback to

make further revisions. To fulfill its statutory obligation to “assist the senates to communicate with one another” (Article 2, Section 2.b), USC will additionally share with the senates the responses to their feedback on the 2021 version of ST-83 sent separately to each senate in August 2024.

USC will continue to engage with the senates as part of its obligation to endeavor to promote agreement. We understand this may be an iterative process, and each senate’s feedback will be necessary and important to facilitate the conclusion of the process. At each stage, senates will also receive the responses to the feedback provided by the other two senates, as background to the amendments reflected in the proposed revisions.

USC appreciates the depth and complexity of the proposed changes to the *Statutes* with ST-83 and each senate’s thoughtful and thorough engagement with successive versions. As noted above, should your senate decide to reject any portion of the August 2024 revision, USC requests that you propose alternative wording, along with explanations for your rejection, and that your comments and proposed modifications to the August 2024 ST-83 version be provided no later than May 15, 2025, to keep the process moving forward.

Thank you for all of your efforts to make this important process function within the best traditions of shared governance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JEJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, Chair  
University Senates Conference

Attachment: USC Resolution on ST-83, December 20, 2024

JEJ/dmp

cc: Sarah Gantz, Office of the Executive Vice President  
Elizabeth Dooley, UIC Senate  
Sara Powell, UIS Senate  
Jenny Roether, UIUC Senate  
Members, University Senates Conference



University Senates Conference  
378 Henry Administration Building, MC 348  
506 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

## **University Senates Conference Resolution on ST-83 Process (December 20, 2024)**

Because the University of Illinois System President returned ST-83 to the USC, the Statutes and Governance Committee proposes the following process to be followed as the USC continues to attempt to promote agreement on the amended ST-83 that was circulated in August 2024:

- The feedback USC sent separately to each senate in August will be forwarded by USC to all three Senates as background on the amendments to ST-83 reflected in the August 2024 revision of ST-83.
- USC requests comments and feedback on the August 2024 revised version of ST-83 from the Senates by the end of the Spring 2025 semester (May 15, 2025).
- The USC Statutes and Governance Committee is charged with reviewing the feedback from the Senates. After review of the advice from all three Senates (May 16, 2025) the committee will endeavor to promote agreement and draft texts to the August 2024 revised version of ST-83 based on the feedback as appropriate.
- A draft of the second proposed revision of ST-83 will be transmitted to each Senate in the 2025/2026 academic year along with USC responses to each point of advice provided by each senate. Each senate will also receive the responses to the feedback provided by the other two Senates, as background to the amendments reflected in the proposed revisions.
- Senates will be invited to submit additional feedback on the second proposed revision of ST-83 and USC will endeavor to promote agreement among the senates.
- Before transmitting a revised version of ST-83 to the President, USC will share the version with the Senates, providing the Senates the opportunity to concur, modify, or reject the proposed amendments, sending its advice directly to USC, which will continue to endeavor to promote agreement.

Passed, with unanimous support, by roll call vote at the December 20, 2024, business meeting of the University Senates Conference.