

APPROVED BY SENATE

09/15/2025

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025
ILLINI UNION BALLROOM (2ND FLOOR) & ZOOM
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate was called to order at 3:12 pm by Professor Emeritus H. George Friedman, Jr. serving as the Presiding Officer of the Senate with William J. Maher serving as Parliamentarian.

2. APPROVAL OF REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Remote participation was approved by unanimous consent.

3. APPROVAL OF FLOOR PRIVILEGES

The following requests for floor privileges were approved by unanimous consent.

EP Graduate College Proposals

- Allison McKinney; Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs

EP.25.085 and EP.25.086

- Katie Clark, Associate Dean for Student Services, MDA
- Melissa Kisubika, Project Manager for Student Success, Office of the Provost
- Dustin Tarter, Assistant Dean for Recruitment, Advising and Enrichment, AHS

4. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved by unanimous consent.

- a) Minutes of the April 7, 2025 Senate Meeting**
- b) EP.25.072, Illinois Student Council Resolution Calling on the Senate to Release Data Pertaining to Grade Distributions**
- c) EP.25.079, Revise and Rename the Graduate Minor in Heritage Studies in the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College**
- d) EP.25.081, Eliminate the Doctor of Audiology in Audiology in the College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College**
- e) EP.25.083, Establish the Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering Technology and Management for Agricultural Systems in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College**
- f) EP.25.084, Establish the Undergraduate Minor in Hip Hop Culture and the Arts in the College of Fine and Applied Arts**

- g) EP.25.085, Remove ABS grade option and Revise Student Code Sections § 3-102, § 3-103, § 3-104, § 3-106, § 3-201, § 3-203, § 3-204**
- h) EP.25.086, Proposal to Update Incomplete Processing Timeline and Revise Student Code Section § 3-104**
- i) EP.25.087, Proposal to Revise the Policy for Full-Time Enrollment for Graduate Students**
- j) EP.25.088, Revise the Master of Science in Technology Management in the Gies College of Business and the Graduate College**
- k) EP.25.089, Establish the Concentration in Consumer-Centric Innovation and Design in the Master of Science in Technology Management in the Gies College of Business and the Graduate College**
- l) EP.25.096, Eliminate the Concentration in Workplace Training & Development in the Bachelor of Science in Learning & Education Studies in the College of Education**
- m) EP.25.097, Eliminate the Concentration in Educational Equality & Cultural Understanding in the Bachelor of Science in Learning & Education Studies in the College of Education**
- n) EP.25.098, Establish the Concentration in Inclusive Leadership & Learning in Organizations in the Bachelor of Science in Learning & Education Studies in the College of Education**
- o) EP.25.099, Revise the Concentration in Educational Technology in the Bachelor of Science in Learning & Education Studies in the College of Education**
- p) EP.25.100, Revise the Bachelor of Science in Learning & Education Studies in the College of Education**
- q) EP.25.102, Establish the 2031-2032 Academic Calendar**
- r) EP.25.103, Establish the 2032-2033 Academic Calendar**
- s) EP.25.105, Revise Academic Calendars 2025–2026 through 2029–2030 to Move the Start of Each Winter Session from Monday to the Preceding Friday**
- t) SC.25.14, 2025-2026 SEC and Senate Meeting Schedule**

5. SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REMARKS

Faculty senator Jon Hale (EDUC), SEC Chair, began his remarks with a reminder to all continuing senators of the importance of attending the Elections and Organizational Senate Meeting next week, May 5. Hale also requested faculty senators nominate themselves for the Senate Committee on Committees or the University Senates Conference.

Hale noted that the Chancellor's remarks, delivered by Provost Coleman, would come after regular Senate business instead of at the beginning of the meeting. He also mentioned SP.25.02, which is feedback on the amended proposed revision to the *Statutes* – also referred to as ST-83. If the Senate does not approve SP.25.02 today, this Senate will miss the opportunity to provide feedback regarding ST-83 which the Springfield and Chicago Senates have already submitted. Hale continued sharing his notes on today's agenda by mentioning the two resolutions and added that approving both resolutions was allowed.

6. PROPOSALS

a) **SP.25.02, Amended Proposed Revision to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 Revised): Response to Requested Feedback on the Amended Proposed Revision to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 Revised)**

On behalf of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP), Chair David Dalpiaz introduced SP.25.02 and provided some additional background information. Dalpiaz shared that this feedback will be sent to the University Senates Conference (USC) for consideration before ST-83 is returned to the senates again for consideration to approve, modify, or reject.

Faculty senator Tolliver (LAS) made a motion to substitute the following language in place of "Recommendation #3" and in place "3." of the summary of Recommendations on page 1. The motion was seconded and discussion followed.

Recommendation #3:

We support the expansion of the definition of faculty proposed in Article II, Section 1 of ST-83. The current Statutes' definition of "faculty" is inappropriately limited to the tenure-stream faculty category only.

ST-83 and its amendments do not propose to change any of the current Statutes' differentiation of responsibilities and rights granted to various categories of faculty. Deliberating such a significant change to existing policies would require careful consideration and extensive discussion, which would go beyond the scope of ST-83 and the August 2024 amendments proposed by USC.

We request that each senate be granted additional time to thoroughly consider and debate the scope of faculty rights to be granted to tenure-system and to non-tenure-system faculty members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Maintain the expanded definition of faculty proposed in Article II, Section 1 of ST-83. Allow senates additional time to thoroughly consider the scope of non-tenure-system faculty rights.

By i-clicker and show of hands, and Poll Everywhere, the motion to substitute alternative language for “Recommendation #3” and “3.” of the summary of Recommendations on page 1 was approved with 119 in favor, 18 opposed, and 13 abstentions.

Faculty senator Gilmore (LAS) expressed concern that no explanation for the revisions is included with the ST-83 proposal, and it is often difficult to determine impact without an explanation.

By i-clicker and show of hands, and Poll Everywhere, item SP.25.02 was approved as amended with 146 in favor, 0 opposed, and 10 abstentions.

b) SP.25.04, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.8 – Committee on Educational Policy

On behalf of SP, Chair Dalpiaz introduced and moved approval of SP.25.04. Key changes are around public hearings, and the other changes are reorganization. No discussion.

By i-clicker and show of hands, and Poll Everywhere, item SP.25.04 was approved with 146 in favor, 1 opposed, and 10 abstentions.

c) SP.25.07, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.6.b – Committee on Committees, Part D.8.d – Committee on Educational Policy, and Part D.10.b – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (membership)

On behalf of SP, Chair Dalpiaz introduced and moved approval of SP.25.07. The proposed revisions would change one student member on each of the three committees listed to a specified Illinois Student Council (ISC) position as an *ex officio* student member with vote. After a short discussion by student senators, the following vote totals were reported.

By i-clicker and show of hands, and Poll Everywhere, item SP.25.07 was approved with 110 in favor, 26 opposed, and 24 abstentions.

d) SP.25.06, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.11 – Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits

On behalf of SP, Chair Dalpiaz introduced and moved approval of SP.25.06. This proposal removes one *ex officio* in exchange for another *ex officio* member, along with reformatting the duties. No discussion.

By i-clicker and show of hands, and Poll Everywhere, item SP.25.06 was approved with 149 in favor, 2 opposed, and 7 abstentions.

e) EP.24.068, Adopt a Campus-wide Definition of Upper Division Coursework and Impose a Minimum Requirement of 40 Upper-Division Hours on All Undergraduate Students

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EP), Chair Nolan Miller introduced EP.24.068 for discussion. This proposal recommends adopting a campuswide definition of upper division coursework and would require all undergraduate students to complete at least 40 hours of upper division credit, beginning with students entering in Fall 2028. This aligns with the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) requirement for new programs and would bring consistency across all programs on campus.

The proposal defines upper division as courses at the 300–400 levels, along with designated 200-level courses as determined by departments in consultation with their colleges. The intent is to respect disciplinary expertise while avoiding unnecessary renumbering or prerequisites. This policy change follows the work of a task force (Fall 2023–January 2025) that consulted widely across campus. The goal is to treat all programs equitably.

Senators were urged to provide feedback directly to Chair Miller. No vote was taken.

f) RS.25.01, Resolution to Join a Mutual Academic Defense Compact (MADC) for the Universities of the Big Ten Academic Alliance

Faculty senator Gilmore (LAS) introduced and moved approval of RS.25.01. The resolution called on campus and system administrators to join a Big Ten wide mutual academic defense compact. The MADC was initiated by Rutgers in March 2025, eight other Big Ten institutions have already endorsed similar measures. The compact would encourage administrators to commit funding and support toward a shared defense fund, provide legal and academic resources, and publicly participate in coordinated responses to external challenges facing higher education. The resolution also includes a “futureproofing” provision encouraging participation in similar national efforts that may arise. The motion was seconded and discussion followed.

Several senators spoke in support of the resolution while others expressed concerns about the specific language used. Comments emphasized the need to defend higher education, academic freedom, and students’ rights. Questions were also raised about the scope and feasibility of commitments requested by the administration.

Faculty senator McDuffie (LAS) made a motion to close debate and the motion was seconded. By i-clicker and show of hands, and Poll Everywhere, the motion to close debate was approved with 141 in favor, 2 opposed, and 8 abstentions.

By i-clicker and show of hands, and Poll Everywhere, item RS.25.01 was approved with 141 in favor, 4 opposed, and 10 abstentions.

g) RS.25.02, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate Resolution in Defense of the Core Mission, Values, and Academic Freedom of U.S. Higher Education

Faculty senator Lyons (ACES) introduced and moved approval of RS.25.02. This resolution was inspired by the Big Ten Senate leaders who shared values statement and the Yale faculty letter. This resolution affirms common values while also calling for specific actions in response to threats to higher education. It emphasizes the need for actionable steps within the authority of university leaders, tailored to the University's mission and teaching strengths. Lyons noted that some peer institutions have adopted multiple complementary resolutions. After a short comment, the following vote totals were reported.

By i-clicker and show of hands, and Poll Everywhere, item RS.25.02 was approved with 136 in favor, 2 opposed, and 15 abstentions.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Graduate student Spencer Wilken, Astronomy provided an update on and encouraged support of the student made mascot effort.

Undergraduate Klaudia Babel, Political Science, share their undergraduate college experience without a mascot.

8. CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

John Coleman, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, shared the following remarks on behalf of Chancellor Jones who is meeting with other administrators and members of the Association of American Universities (AAU). Coleman thanked the Senate for its discussion of and concerns about recent federal challenges to higher education. He discussed participation in an AAU led lawsuit against the Department of Energy's attempt to cap federal research cost reimbursements at 15%, the successful reactivation of SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) status for 30 affected international students and 18 on OPT (Optional Practical Training which is a temporary employment program for foreign students) following national legal challenges, and continuing monitoring of immigration policy impacts. Provost Coleman also highlighted ongoing collaboration with AAU, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), and other associations to protect research funding and institutional values. Over 10,000

degrees and professional certificates will be conferred at commencement this spring, underscoring the University's continued mission and impact despite current challenges.

9. QUESTIONS FROM SENATORS

Faculty senator Rosas (LAS) urged the administration to address the situations of international students who left the country and those displaced from homes or jobs. Coleman confirmed they are reviewing these concerns and are committed to improving support and preparedness for any future occurrences.

Faculty senator Vergara-Bracamontes (LAS) urged the University to go beyond legal briefings and provide resources, including financial support for legal representation, housing, and other urgent needs, noting the limited availability of immigration attorneys locally and the associated high costs. Coleman asked that examples of solutions to be sent to him to determine if that type of solution could be applied here at Illinois.

Student senator Leopold (GRAD) spoke in support of the King Fisher as a mascot and noted that student climate has been difficult amid recent uncertainties and emphasized the need for better preparation, stronger support, and recognition of those doing the work. Coleman agreed that it is important to be better prepared for future challenges. On the mascot issue, he noted that Chancellor Jones had addressed it extensively at the previous Senate meeting and the incoming chancellor will also review the matter.

10. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The following items were received by the Senate.

- a) EP.25.093, Graduate College Policy Updates for Academic Year 2025-2026**
- b) EP.25.095, Report of Administrative Approvals Through April 28, 2025**
- c) EP.25.101, Proposals Approved with Altered Workflow for General Education Template**
- d) EP.25.104, Temporary Suspension of Admission to the Concentration in Acting in the Master of Fine Arts in Theatre in the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College**

11. 2024-2025 ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following items were received by the Senate.

- a) AD.25.06, 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Admissions**
- b) BG.25.02, 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on the Budget**

- c) **EC.25.04, 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials**
- d) **EP.25.106, 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy**
- e) **HD.25.06, 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees**
- f) **LB.25.06, 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on the Library**
- g) **RP.25.07, 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Research Policy**

12. NEW BUSINESS

Student senator Holt (ACES) made a motion to add the following item of new business to today's agenda: RS.25.04, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate Resolution in Defense of the Right to Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Expression on Campus. The motion was seconded, and the following vote totals were reported.

By i-clicker and show of hands, and Poll Everywhere, the motion to add RS.25.04 to today's agenda was approved with 110 in favor, 8 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

The resolution proposed amendments to the Student Code to better protect students' rights to free speech and expression. Key changes include clarifying that actions are protected if covered by the First Amendment, clarifying definitions of misconduct related to property, and replacing broad language on detrimental behavior with language focused on acts that directly endanger the health and well-being of the university community.

A motion was made to refer RS.25.04 to an appropriate committee. The motion was seconded and approved by voice.

Since the motion did not specify a committee, the SEC will decide which committee to refer the item to for review.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Jenny Roether, Clerk of the Senate

A video recording of these proceedings can be found at <https://go.illinois.edu/senate>.