

APPROVED BY SENATE

09/15/2025

CC.26.14

September 15, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

(Final; Action)

CC.26.14 Election of **Academic Professional Members** to the Ninth Senate Review Commission

**BACKGROUND**

According to Article VI, Section 10 of the Senate *Constitution*, at least once every seven years, the Senate shall provide for a comprehensive review of its size, organization, structure, and operation by a commission composed of members from each electorate, and the administration. Such commission shall report its findings and make recommendations to the Senate Executive Committee, as prescribed in the *Bylaws*. The report of the commission shall be made public and distributed as a report for information to the Senate.

**NOMINATIONS**

The Committee on Committees present the following nominees to serve as **academic professional members** to the Ninth Senate Review Commission. Submitted interest statements from nominees are attached.

Rae Fletcher	McKinley Health Center	District 7
Eric Kurt	University Library	District 9
Elizabeth Meschewski	Illinois Sustainable Technology Center	District 11
William Schlaak	University Library	District 9

Nominees shall be elected in accordance with the approved election procedures in SC.26.03.

1. Each senator may cast up to two (2) votes.
2. The two (2) nominees receiving the highest number of votes are elected, with at most one (1) from any single Council of Academic Professional (CAP) District.

Additional nominations by academic professional senators may be made from the floor and must be accompanied by the nominee's willingness to serve if elected. Nominees must be members of the academic professional electorate as defined in [Article III of the Senate Constitution](#). A statement of interest limited to 200 words is also requested.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Chaya Sandler, Chair

Kent Choquette

Sohan Hajra  
Linda Herrera  
Gal Hochman  
Tania Ionin  
Bernhard Scully  
Michelle Gornicki, *ex officio*  
Jenny Roether, *ex officio*

## **STATEMENTS OF INTEREST**

### **Rae Fletcher (Associate Director of Ancillary Services, McKinley Health Center)**

Rae Fletcher is an Associate Director of McKinley Health Center. He is responsible for overseeing the student health center's Pharmacy, Laboratory, Radiology, Central Supply and Building Services. He has worked in the healthcare/education industry for over 30 years in various roles in Chicago, Galesburg and Urbana-Champaign. Since arriving at Illinois, he has served on several committees, including the Senate Committee on the Budget, which he also served as chairman. Rae is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Self-Care Station vending machines that are deployed in four locations on campus and preparing for distribution of six more. Aside from his work on ensuring student access to health care and serving on committees, he enjoys volunteering his time as a small group facilitator with the Illinois Leadership Center. In 2024 he was recognized by the Black Faculty and Professionals Alliance for Leadership in Service and Innovation.

### **Eric Kurt (Media Commons Coordinator, Library)**

Eric Kurt is the Media Commons Coordinator for the Grainger Engineering Library. The Media Commons provides media creation studios, spaces, loanable technology, and other services with a focus on digital media, innovation, and emerging technology. He has previously served as an Academic Department Director and was an instructor for Indiana University and Purdue University. Mr. Kurt has over 20 years experience managing and instructing in the areas of technology and design. Three years ago, Eric was elected to the Council of Academic Professionals. He became involved in the CAP grievance process, serving as the Assistant Grievance Officer and then Grievance Officer. Eric is now serving in his second year as Chair of the Council of Academic Professionals. As Chair of CAP, he also serves as an ex-officio voting member on SEC and is an AP Senator for District 9. As Chair of CAP, an SEC member and Senator, he has become familiar with Senate bylaws and policies. The Ninth Senate Review Commission offers a real chance to revise the bylaws and composition of the Senate. It could also allow for more effective coordination of the items of priority between the Council of Academic Professionals and the Academic Senate.

### **Elizabeth Meschewski (Assistant Research Scientist, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center)**

Elizabeth Meschewski received her B.S. in geology and M.S. in environmental engineering at the University of Illinois. Beth has been with the Prairie Research Institute (PRI) at the University for 15 years serving in various roles at the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center and the Illinois State Water Survey. In addition, she served as the AP senator for PRI in the University Senate from 2021-2025 and as a Council of Academic Professionals representative from 2022-2024. Beth is passionate about shared governance and proud to be part of the University of Illinois. To that end, Beth is interested in serving on the committee for the Ninth Senate Review Commission to assess the Senate's size, organization, structure, and operations and identify opportunities to increase inclusiveness among those represented in the Senate while maintaining the bounds and purpose of the Senate.

**William Schlaak (Digital Reformatting Coordinator, University Library)**

William Schlaack is the Digital Reformatting Coordinator and Coordinator for Digital Preservation Services at the University of Illinois. He discovered his passion for preservation while working in campus archives during his senior year of college, leading him to attend the University of Illinois and graduate with an MSLIS in 2012. William now oversees large scale digitization and reformatting projects, including working with the National Digital Newspaper Program, Internet Archive, and HathiTrust. Since 2019 William has served on the Council of Academic Professionals, during which time he served on the University Professional Personnel Advisory Committee; the Joint Advisory Committee on Investment, Licensing, and Naming Rights; the Public Safety Advisory Committee; the University Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure; and the Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits.