

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES  
(Final; Action)

CC.26.16 Election of an **Administrative Member** 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 an **administrative member** to the Ninth Senate Review Commission. Submitted interest statements from nominees are attached.

Nizam Arain Office for Access and Equity  
Jessica Mette Office of the Provost  
Amy Santos Office of the Provost

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

1. Each senator may cast up to one (1) vote.
2. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes is elected.

Additional nominations by administrative *ex officio* members of the Senate, as defined in [Article V of the Senate Constitution](#), may be made from the floor and must be accompanied by the nominee's willingness to serve if elected. Nominees must hold a non-visiting and at least a 75% administrative appointment. 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**

### **Nizam Arain (Associate Vice Chancellor for Access and Equity, Office for Access and Equity)**

Nizam Arain has served as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Access and Equity at the University of Illinois since May 2020. In that role he leads the Office for Access and Equity and oversees essential campus services and resources related to discrimination, accessibility, and equal opportunity. Nizam holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Illinois and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. He has worked in the field of higher education equity and civil rights for over 15 years, prior to which he was a practicing attorney in Chicago. In addition to his administrative roles, Nizam has taught undergraduate and graduate-level courses on higher education law and policy, U.S. government, and constitutional law, and has given numerous guest lectures and conference presentations on issues of institutional equity, civil liberties, free speech, and academic freedom.

### **Jessica Mette (Associate Provost for Faculty Appointments and Policy Administration, Office of the Provost)**

As Assistant Provost for Faculty Appointments and Policy Administration, I provide support on various faculty matters involving appointment structure, governance, and policies. My portfolio also includes acting as liaison to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees for faculty personnel matters, including hiring, promotion and tenure, sabbaticals, contracts, and notice of non-reappointments, as well as sharing broad perspective and access to faculty employment matters. After human resources roles in transportation, retail, and warehousing, I joined the University of Illinois, coordinating HR activities for the School of Chemical Sciences for several years before joining Illinois Human Resources and then the Office of the Provost. I hold an undergraduate degree from Illinois and a graduate degree from Illinois' School of Labor and Employment Relations.

I serve as ex-officio on two senate sub-committees, SP and FB, and have developed significant respect for the senate and those who share their time and effort within it. Being part of the senate has made me a better resource; I welcome an opportunity to make the senate in any part better.

### **Amy Santos (Assistant Provost for Faculty Development, Office of the Provost)**

Amy Santos is the Associate Provost for Faculty Development, where she leads programs and policies that support faculty success from their first days on campus through every stage of their careers at Illinois. Her portfolio includes faculty mentoring, career pathways for tenure-stream and specialized faculty, the dual career program, faculty awards and recognition, and leadership development. She previously served as Acting Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (2022–23), interim head of the Department of Special Education (2016–17), and Provost Fellow (2015–16). Dr. Santos began her Illinois career in 1997 as coordinator of a federally funded research institute in the College of Education's Department of Special Education, where she later joined as assistant professor and rose through the ranks to full professor. A nationally recognized scholar in early intervention and early childhood special education, her research explores how families and culture shape the learning and development of young children with disabilities.