

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

(Final; Action)

CC.26.19 Election of an **Administrative Member** to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Honorary Degree Awards Process

**BACKGROUND**

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Honorary Degree Awards Process will examine the current honorary degree awards process and determine if the process is efficient, effective, and appropriately balances faculty engagement with the University's need. The Committee will also ensure the process for granting honorary degree awards reflects best practices and maintains consistency with the University's mission and values.

Excerpt from the *Statutes*, Article II, Section 1.

d. Each senate shall recommend candidates for honorary degrees...

The Committee will advise the Senate on the process of discharging this obligation and will make recommendations to the Senate through the Senate Executive Committee to strengthen the process for the future, ensuring it continues to reflect academic excellence and the University's highest standards.

**NOMINATIONS**

The Committee on Committees present the following nominees to serve as an **administrative member** to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Honorary Degree Awards Process. Submitted interest statements from nominees are attached.

Kristin McMurray	Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Operations
Sharon Reynolds	Office of the Provost

Nominees shall be elected in accordance with the approved election procedures in SC.26.04.

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. Each nominee 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**

### **Kristin McMurray (Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration and Operations, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Operations)**

Kristin McMurray serves as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration and Operations. She has over 25 years of professional experience at the University of Illinois and is a two-time alum graduating with an undergraduate degree from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a master's degree in higher education administration. Kristin currently oversees several units including the Police Training Institute, Illinois Fire Safety Institute, Division of Parks and Natural Spaces, Swanlund IT, Facility Scheduling and Logistics, the Office of Threat Assessment, and the Illini Center. In addition, she chairs the Campus Administrative Manual committee as well as the Chancellor's Special Event Advisory Committee. Prior to joining the OVCAO, Kristin served as the Associate Registrar overseeing class scheduling and the course catalog. She also spent 10 years in Student Affairs with the Division of Campus Recreation.

Kristin would bring a wealth of institutional knowledge to the Ad Hoc Committee including her prior service as an ex officio member of the Committee on Commencement. With extensive experience in reviewing campus administrative procedures, she is well-positioned to contribute meaningfully to the evaluation of the Honorary Degree program. Her goal is to foster greater clarity and trust in the selection process.

### **Sharon Reynolds (Associate Provost for Faculty Employee Relations, Office of the Provost)**

As the Associate Provost for Faculty Employee Relations, Sharon Reynolds provides support on a wide variety of academic matters, including issues related to policy development, shared governance, and administrative initiatives. Ms. Reynolds has been with the University of Illinois for more than 25 years and has served in several roles, including Director of Human Relations and University Equal Opportunity at the University System Office, and Associate Director for Labor and Employee Relations at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She has experience overseeing academic employee labor contracts, as well as with compliance activities and complex performance management matters. Sharon holds a Bachelor's degree from Illinois State University; a Master of Science (MS) degree from Michigan State University in Educational Systems Development; and a Master of Labor and Industrial Relations (MLIR) degree from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is a past University Administration Fellow, Big Ten Academic Alliance Fellow, and has advanced certifications in Management Development from Harvard University and in Mediation from Northwestern University. She is a native of Urbana, Illinois.