

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICY
(Final; Information)

GP.25.08 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on General University Policy

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GP) during the 2024-2025 academic year. GP held four meetings during the fall 2024 semester (September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11) and four meetings during the spring 2025 semester (February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

GP.21.11, Guidelines for Faculty Engagement

The matter of working outside the State of Illinois is the primary reason this item has remained on the committee's agenda. GP focused on the challenges that may occur if a unit decides it is in the best interest of the University to end a contract to work remotely for a tenured faculty member who does not hold that same opinion. GP suggested that a Memorandum of Understanding should be written to make clear the terms of the arrangement. GP suggested that the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure also review the Proposed Guidance for Deans, Executive Officers, and Faculty Regarding Faculty Working Outside Illinois document and provide feedback to the Office of the Provost.

GP.23.03, Course Modality Policy

GP discussed the need for a policy regarding modalities for courses in the event of unplanned circumstances that may result in a need to modify how a course is delivered for a brief period of time. This discussion did not include matters related to making a determination of what course(s) should be delivered in-person versus online. For instance, in the event of a sudden illness or unexpected need to be out of town, when/how might an instructor make arrangements to change from in-person to an online modality for the next class or two? The matter of protections for students was brought up where changes in course modality might be suddenly extended beyond a week. Bernhard reinforced that in such cases the department should consider an appropriate accommodation for the student(s). Discussion ensued regarding where such a policy should be housed and GP recommended that the Campus Administrative Manual may be the most appropriate place for it.

GP.24.03, Proposed Revisions Related to Tenure at Two Institutions – Provost Communication #3: Appointments of Faculty, Specialized Faculty, and Academic Professionals and Provost Communication #20: Leaves

GP was asked to review and comment on proposed revisions related to Provost Communications #3 and #20 and parameters around leave of absences for faculty. GP feedback included clarifying that tenure system faculty may not hold a tenure system position at any other institution while on approved leave of absence from the University (Communication #20) or while employed as a tenure system faculty member at Illinois (Communication #3).

GP.24.04, Discussion of DEI Requirement in Provost Communication #9: Promotion and Tenure

During FY24, GP underscored the need to initiate a review process regarding the possibility of requiring DEI statements in the dossiers of faculty to assess how the policy is interpreted and applied at the unit level. During FY25, this point was again reinforced and Bernhard indicated he was supportive of such a review.

GP.25.01, Title II/Digital Accessibility Compliance

At the October 9, 2024 meeting, GP met with Ingrid Fulmer and Keith Hays, Co-Chairs of the Digital Accessibility and Excellence Steering Committee, to discuss Title II/Digital Accessibility and provide feedback. The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) is offering reference materials on their website and Quick Start workshops will be offered.

GP.25.02, Amended Proposed Revision to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83)

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP) requested that GP review the proposed revision to the *Statutes* from University Senates Conference and provide input. GP reviewed the proposed *Statutes* revision and sent a response to SP and the Senate Executive Committee on October 24, 2024 for distribution to the full Senate.

GP.25.04, Discussion of Incorporating Senate Guidelines on Departmental Statements Into Campus Policies

In 2022, GP approved Guidelines on Departmental Statements regarding political statements which were, in turn, approved at the December 5, 2022 Senate meeting. In those guidelines, GP recommended that a unit should add a disclaimer indicating any such statement does not represent the University as a whole. The guidelines previously created and approved by GP were proposed to be incorporated into a Campus Administrative Manual policy by the CAM Committee. GP members were supportive of doing so.

GP.25.05, Proposed Teaching Feedback and Evaluation

At the December 11, 2024 meeting, Geoffrey Herman, Provost Fellow, Office of the Provost, provided a summary of the work underway to develop a new process for providing teaching feedback and evaluation. This work is based on the outcome of a

previous task force that created a campus definition of teaching excellence and recommended a stronger focus be placed on providing meaningful feedback to all levels of instructors and teaching faculty. Current efforts are also focused on developing a better method for evaluation than what is currently provided through the ICES system. Due to limited time to respond to questions and feedback, Herman returned to the April 9, 2025 meeting to give an update and respond to questions.

GP.25.06, Discussion of CAM Policy RP-06, Eligibility to Serve as Principal Investigator of an Externally-Sponsored Activity and CAM Policy RP-17, Eligibility to Serve as Principal Investigator of a Compliance Protocol

At the February 12, 2025 meeting, Patty Jones, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation in Compliance, David Richardson, Director of Sponsored Programs Administration, and Robin Beach, Director of Sponsored Programs Pre-Award, outlined the proposed revisions to RP-06 and RP-17 which were intended to clarify principal investigator requirements for oversight of externally-sponsored activities and also eligibility to serve as PI for a Compliance Protocol. GP provided input and the guests indicated their interest in incorporating that input into the final policy updates.

GP.25.07, Proposed Revision to CAM Policy HR-50, Obtaining Permanent Residence for International Staff Members, and CAM Policy HR-88, Sponsorship for Work Authorization

On April 23, 2025, Sharon Reynolds, Associate Provost for Faculty Employee Relations, brought to the attention of the GP Chair the recent minor edits made to these two Campus Administrative Manual (CAM) policies. At the May 14, 2025 meeting, members reviewed the policies and confirmed there were no substantive changes made. Through further discussion, GP agreed there is great value in having a representative from the CAM Committee assess policy reviews that would benefit from GP input.

II. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

GP.25.03, Proposed Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.12 – General University Policy

GP reviewed the *Bylaws*, Part D.12 and submitted a revision to the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures on March 19, 2025, to revise its membership and to better clarify its duties.

III. ITEMS FOR ANNUAL REVIEW

GP.07.04, Review Annual Report on the Composition of the Faculty

At the September 11, 2024 meeting, GP reaffirmed that an annual review of the Faculty Data Report would be a better instrument to review rather than a report confirming (or not) that the total of multi-year contract appointments does not exceed 15% of the total.

GP.16.02, Criminal Background Check Policy

At the April 9, 2025 meeting, Stone shared information for criminal background checks for 2023-2024:

- 352 faculty
- 580 academic professionals
- 1,276 civil service

There were 13 job offers withdrawn following the criminal background check (6 civil service and 7 extra help).

GP.18.01, Faculty Policy Guide

At the March 12, 2025 meeting, Basu and Seitz agreed to review the Faculty Policy Guide to determine areas where the document would benefit from updated links. After review, it became apparent that there may be more updates needed than just broken links.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICY
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