

FAILED BY SENATE

09/15/2025

SC.26.04

September 15, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Final; Action)

SC.26.04 Establish the Ad Hoc Committee on the Honorary Degree Awards Process

BACKGROUND

Establishing the Ad Hoc Committee on the Honorary Degree Awards Process provides an opportunity to:

1. Examine the current honorary degree award process and determine if the process is efficient, effective, and appropriately balances faculty engagement with the University's needs.
2. Ensure the process for granting honorary degree awards reflects best practices and maintains consistency with the University's mission and values.

Statutes, Article II, Section 1:

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

This Committee's duty is to advise the Senate on the process of discharging this obligation.

After the Committee completes its review, it will make recommendations to the Senate through the SEC to strengthen the process for the future, ensuring it continues to reflect academic excellence and the University's highest standards.

RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) recommends establishing the Ad Hoc Committee on the Honorary Degree Awards Process following the proposed **timeline, composition, and election procedures** described below.

TIMELINE FOR ESTABLISHING THE COMMITTEE AND FOR SUBMITTING REPORTS

SEP 15, 2025 Senate Meeting

- Establish the Ad Hoc Committee on the Honorary Degree Awards Process.
- Committee on Committees (CC) nominates, and the Senate elects, individuals to serve on the Committee in accordance with the procedures described in the Election Procedures below.

Week of SEP 15, 2025

- SEC distributes a charge letter to the individuals elected to the Committee by the Senate. The charge letter will include specific topics and/or issues for the Committee to review.

DEC 19, 2025

- The Committee submits recommendations in a report to SEC by December 19, 2025.

FEB 2, 2026 SEC Meeting

- SEC discusses the Committee's report and begins implementing the recommendations.

COMPOSITION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE HONORARY DEGREE AWARDS PROCESS

The SEC proposes a committee composed of four (4) faculty members (2 designated + 2 elected), one (1) student member, one (1) administrative member, and the Clerk of the Senate (or the Clerk's designee) for a **total of 7 members**.

ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Four (4) Faculty Members [2 designated (including the chair) + 2 elected]

Two (2) Designated Faculty Members (including the chair)

1. Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Vice-Chair will serve as Chair
2. Chair of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees

Two (2) Elected Faculty Members

3. CC nominates at least three (3) and at most four (4) faculty members.
4. Faculty senators may nominate additional faculty members from the floor.
5. The Senate elects two (2) faculty members that are:
 - a. Members of the faculty electorate as defined in [Article II of the Senate Constitution](#).
 - b. At most one (1) from any single college or similar division.

One (1) Student Member

1. CC nominates at least two (2) and at most three (3) student members.
2. Student senators may nominate additional student members from the floor.
3. The Senate elects one (1) student member that is:
 - a. Members of the student electorate as defined by [Article IV of the Senate Constitution](#).

One (1) Administrative Member

1. CC nominates at least two (2) and at most three (3) administrative members.
2. Administrative *ex officio* members of the Senate, as defined in [Article V of the Senate Constitution](#), may nominate additional administrative members from the floor.
3. The Senate elects one (1) administrative member holding:
 - a. A non-visiting appointment.
 - b. At least a 75% administrative appointment.

Clerk of the Senate

1. The Clerk of the Senate or the Clerk's designee shall serve as a member.

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Angela Lyons, Chair
Shawn Gilmore, Vice-Chair
David Dalpiaz
Hunter Farnham
David Forsyth
Patrick Holt
Yvette Johnson-Walker
Joanne Kaczmarek
Anjali Kumar
Eric Kurt
Ralph Mathisen
Gay Miller
Nolan Miller
James Quisenberry
Charles Roseman
Peter Silhan
John Weible
Jessica Williams
Charles Isbell, *ex officio*
Rurik Tywoniw, *ex officio*