

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES
(Final; Information)

SP.25.10 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP) during the 2024-2025 academic year. SP held nine meetings during the fall 2024 semester (August 28, September 11, September 25, October 9, October 23, October 30, November 6, November 20, December 11) and nine meetings during the spring 2025 semester (January 24, January 31, February 14, February 28, March 14, March 28, April 11, April 18, May 2). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS APPROVED BY THE SENATE

SP.23.10, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.1.d – Senate Executive Committee; Part D.8.e – Committee on Educational Policy; and Part D.19 – Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (Chair Compensation)

During the 2019-20 academic year, SP considered changes to the *Bylaws*, Part D.19 that govern the work of SP. The proposed revisions, approved by the Senate as SP.20.08 on February 10, 2020, better aligned the *Bylaws* language with the committee's responsibilities.

In the process of developing SP.20.08, SP also proposed that the chair of SP be compensated for its work, analogous to the compensation afforded to the chairs of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EP). SEC requested that compensation component be removed from SP.20.08 for further discussion as SC.20.12. Following nearly three years of discussion, SC.20.12 was returned to SP in January 2023, including proposed revisions to Parts D.1, D.8, and D.19 that would redefine the compensation of the chairs of SEC, EP, and SP. SP continued discussion of this proposal during the 2024-2025 academic year. The proposal was approved by SP on 12/11/2024 and returned to SP by the Senate on 02/10/2025. After revision to the proposal to address the concerns raised by a faculty senator at the February 10, 2025 Senate meeting, the revised proposal was approved by SP on 02/28/2025 and approved by the Senate on 03/10/2025.

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

Continuing work dating back to August 2021, SP completed its review of the August 28, 2024 version of ST-83, an amended proposal to revise the *Statutes* received from the University Senates Conference (USC). Using input requested and received from Senate

committees, additional stakeholders, and a Senate Committee of the Whole discussion, SP proposed four recommendations for the Senate to consider transmitting to USC.

1. Do not make any changes to Article IX and X.
2. Define a clear, potentially more focused, scope for ST-83.
3. Request that each Senate discuss and provide feedback on the scope of faculty governance rights, with a focus on the rights of non-tenure system employees.
4. Establish procedures for future work on ST-83.

The item was approved by SP on 04/18/2025 and approved by the Senate on 04/28/2025.

SP.25.04, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.8.c.4 – Committee on Educational Policy

The Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EP) recommended a revision to the *Bylaws* Part D.8.c to provide a clear specification on the process for the public hearing requirement for a proposal to change the status of an academic unit. SP proposed a revision to the *Bylaws* that clarifies that EP is responsible only for ensuring that a public hearing has been held, together with additional reorganization and refinement of the language throughout *Bylaws* Part D.8. The item was approved by SP on 04/18/2025 and approved by the Senate on 04/28/2025.

SP.25.06, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.11 – Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits

The Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits submitted a *Bylaws* revision to amend its responsibilities and membership and to clarify the committee's duties. The item was approved by SP on 04/18/2025 and approved by the Senate on 04/28/2025.

SP.25.07, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.6.b – Committee on Committees, Part D.8.d – Committee on Educational Policy, and Part D.10.b – Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (membership)

The Illinois Student Council (ISC) passed a resolution calling on the Senate to include ISC representation on Committee on Educational Policy, Committee on Committees, and Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. SP proposed a revision to the *Bylaws* to replace an existing student member with an ISC member on each of the requested committees. The item was approved by SP on 04/18/2025 and approved by the Senate on 04/28/2025.

II. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

SP.25.03, Committee of the Whole Discussion Regarding the Amended Proposed Revision to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 Revised)

To gather Senate input on the August 28, 2024 version of ST-83, SP created prompts for a Committee of the Whole discussion. SP also requested input from several Senate

committees and other non-Senate stakeholders. This input was provided to the Senate together with the discussion prompts. The item was approved by SP on 11/06/2024. The Senate held a Committee of the Whole discussion on this item at its 11/11/2024 meeting. Feedback from that discussion was incorporated into SP's work on SP.25.02.

SP.25.09, Call for Volunteers to Serve as 2025-2026 Parliamentarians

This has been accomplished. The parliamentarians are William Maher and George Friedman.

III. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

SP.23.02, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 7 – Sabbatical Leaves and Unpaid Leaves of Absence for Member of the Faculty; Article X, Section 1 – Tenure of Academic Staff; Article X, Section 2c – Termination of Tenure

A member of SP initiated a discussion of potential changes to the *Statutes*, Article X. SP continued its discussion of these potential changes. Some members of SP noted Senate concerns over protecting academic freedom and shared governance and stated that it is not the appropriate time to consider these revisions.

SP.25.01, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article II, Section 3 – Faculty Role in Governance, Article IX, Section 3.c – Appointments, Ranks, and Promotions of the Academic and Administrative Staff, and Article X, Section 1.a(6) – Tenure of Academic Staff

In April 2024, the Urbana-Champaign campus implemented a promotion status of “principal” above the status of “senior” for its non-tenure-track instructors and lecturers. SP drafted a revision to the *Statutes* II.3.a, IX.3.c, and X.1.z(6) so that those with a “principal” modifier can readily identify where they belong in these sections.

SP.25.05, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8 – Amendments

SP drafted a revision to the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8 to better specify when University Senates Conference can act. SP will continue review of the proposed revision during the 2025-2026 academic year.

SP.25.08, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.12 – Committee on General University Policy

The Senate Committee on General University Policy submitted a *Bylaws* revision to revise its membership and to better clarify its duties. SP will continue review of the revision during the 2025-2026 academic year.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

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