

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

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

**BACKGROUND**

In 2018, the Senate approved a revised version of [SP.14.06](#), a large set of proposed changes to the *University Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8, which governs which parties may propose amendments to the *Statutes* and how those proposals must move through various stages before they can be adopted by the Board of Trustees. SP.14.06 authorized the University Senates Conference (USC) and President to propose amendments to the *Statutes*, adding language roughly paralleling that already in place which allowed each senate and the Board of Trustees to do so. Those amendments maintained the current structure of Article XIII, Section 8 organized by each of the four initiating parties—a senate, the USC, the President, or the Board—with long paragraphs on the processes that follow after, resulting in similar, but not fully parallel language.

The proposed revisions would fully restructure Article XIII, Section 8 to better specify three steps in the amendment process: initiation, consideration by the senates, and incorporation. Most of the proposed changes unify the language currently found under each subsection of the current section, while specifying as clearly as possible steps that require approvals by vote and documents that should be transmitted at various stages. For example, lines 121-144 unify language from lines 3-16, 38-41, 66-70, and 95-101. Similarly, the main activity on any proposed amendments is now unified in lines 147-180, restructuring the current language in a series of clear steps.

Importantly, these proposed revisions include new language that spells out some ideas tacit or unclear in the current version of Article XIII, Section 8. These changes would clarify how each initiating body should propose amendments and what they should transmit (lines 121-144). They also specify the role of the USC in response to senate actions on proposed amendments (lines 163-179), especially when the senates do not agree. The current *Statutes* language is confusing on these scenarios.

Finally, the proposed revisions spell out how proposed amendments are adopted, including maintaining the current possibility that the Board may act over the objections of the senates, but only after seeking their advice (compare lines 189-193 with 110-116).

**RECOMMENDATION**

Text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~ and text to be added is underlined.

**PROPOSED REVISION TO THE *STATUTES*, ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 8**

2 **Section 8. Amendments**

3 ~~a. *Initiation of amendment.* Proposed amendments to the *Statutes* can be initiated by a~~  
4 ~~senate, the University Senates Conference, the president, or the Board of Trustees. In~~  
5 ~~the case of proposals initiated by a senate, the University Senates Conference, or the~~  
6 ~~president, the process review is the same. Specific procedures for each entity are~~  
7 ~~below.~~

8  
9 ~~1. *Initiation by a Senate*~~

10 ~~Each of the senates may propose amendments to these *Statutes*. Each senate~~  
11 ~~may act on the proposed amendment in accord with its own established~~  
12 ~~procedures, including the right to concur, to modify, or to reject any proposed~~  
13 ~~amendment or proposed statutory text. Final action in each senate on the~~  
14 ~~proposed amendment may be taken by a majority of all members present and~~  
15 ~~voting at a regular or special meeting held not earlier than the next meeting~~  
16 ~~following the one at which it was introduced in that senate.~~

17  
18 ~~The proposed amendment shall be referred to the University Senates Conference~~  
19 ~~for its consideration and transmission to the other senates for action; the~~  
20 ~~conference may append its comments and recommendations. The proposed~~  
21 ~~amendment shall be placed promptly on the agenda of the other senates.~~

22  
23 ~~If every senate acts affirmatively on the proposed amendment and concurs as to~~  
24 ~~its text, the conference shall send the proposed amendment to the president for~~  
25 ~~transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates~~  
26 ~~of its action; the conference may append its comments. If the senates do not~~  
27 ~~agree as to the proposed amendment, the conference shall endeavor to promote~~  
28 ~~agreement of the senates. Where agreement cannot be effected among all the~~  
29 ~~senates within a reasonable period of time, but the text of a proposed~~  
30 ~~amendment has been agreed upon by all but one of the senates, the conference~~  
31 ~~shall send that proposed amendment, the recommendations of the dissenting~~  
32 ~~senate, and its own recommendations to the president for transmission to the~~

33 ~~Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates of its action. A~~  
34 ~~senate may record and send its further comments to the president for~~  
35 ~~transmission to the Board of Trustees.~~

36  
37 *2. — Initiation by the University Senates Conference*

38 ~~The University Senates Conference by vote of a majority of all members present~~  
39 ~~and voting at a regular or special meeting may propose amendments to these~~  
40 ~~Statutes. The proposed amendment shall be transmitted to the senates for such~~  
41 ~~action as each of them shall see fit; the conference may append its comments.~~

42  
43 ~~The proposed amendment shall be placed promptly on the agenda of each~~  
44 ~~senate. Each senate may act on the proposed amendment in accord with its own~~  
45 ~~established procedures, including the right to concur, to modify, or to reject any~~  
46 ~~proposed amendment or proposed statutory text. Final action in each senate on~~  
47 ~~the proposed amendment may be taken by a majority of all members present~~  
48 ~~and voting at a regular or special meeting held not earlier than the next meeting~~  
49 ~~following the one at which it was introduced in that senate.~~

50  
51 ~~If every senate acts affirmatively on the proposed amendment and concurs as to~~  
52 ~~its text, the conference shall send the proposed amendment to the president for~~  
53 ~~transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates~~  
54 ~~of its action; the conference may append its comments. If the senates do not~~  
55 ~~agree as to the proposed amendment, the conference shall endeavor to promote~~  
56 ~~agreement of the senates. Where agreement cannot be effected among the~~  
57 ~~senates within a reasonable period of time, but the text of a proposed~~  
58 ~~amendment has been agreed upon by all but one of the senates, the conference~~  
59 ~~shall send that proposed amendment, the recommendations of the dissenting~~  
60 ~~senate, and its own recommendations to the president for transmission to the~~  
61 ~~Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates of its action. A~~  
62 ~~senate may record and send its further comments to the president for~~  
63 ~~transmission to the Board of Trustees.~~

64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94

~~3. — *Initiation by the President*~~

~~The president may propose amendments to these *Statutes* and refer them to the University Senates Conference for its consideration, comment, and transmission to the senates for action. The proposed amendment shall be transmitted to the senates for such action as each of them shall see fit; the conference may append its comments.~~

~~The proposed amendment shall be placed promptly on the agenda of each senate. Each senate may act on the proposed amendment in accord with its own established procedures, including the right to concur, to modify, or to reject any proposed amendment or proposed statutory text. Final action in each senate on the proposed amendment may be taken by a majority of all members present and voting at a regular or special meeting held not earlier than the next meeting following the one at which it was introduced in that senate.~~

~~If every senate acts affirmatively on the proposed amendment and concurs as to its text, the conference shall send the proposed amendment to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates of its action; the conference may append its comments. If the senates do not agree as to the proposed amendment, the conference shall endeavor to promote agreement of the senates. Where agreement cannot be effected among all the senates within a reasonable period of time, but the text of a proposed amendment has been agreed upon by all but one of the senates, the conference shall send that proposed amendment, the recommendations of the dissenting senate, and its own recommendations to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates of its action. A senate may record and send its further comments to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees.~~

~~4. — *Initiation by the Board of Trustees*~~

95           ~~The Board of Trustees may initiate proposals to amend the *Statutes*, but the~~  
96           ~~board shall not finally adopt any such proposal without first seeking the advice of~~  
97           ~~the president, the senates, and the University Senates Conference. Any proposal~~  
98           ~~to amend the *Statutes* which is initiated by the Board of Trustees shall be~~  
99           ~~transmitted through the president to the University Senates Conference and~~  
100           ~~transmitted by the conference, with its recommendations, to the senates for~~  
101           ~~consideration and advice.~~

102  
103           ~~The proposed amendment shall be placed promptly on the agenda of each of the~~  
104           ~~senates. Each senate may act on the proposed amendment in accord with its~~  
105           ~~own established procedures, including the right to concur, to modify, or to reject~~  
106           ~~any proposed amendment or proposed statutory text. Final action in each senate~~  
107           ~~on the proposed amendment may be taken by a majority of all members present~~  
108           ~~and voting at a regular or special meeting.~~

109  
110           ~~If the senates do not agree on their advice concerning the proposed amendment,~~  
111           ~~the conference shall endeavor to promote agreement; where agreement cannot~~  
112           ~~be achieved within a reasonable period of time, the conference shall send the~~  
113           ~~advice of the senates and its own recommendations to the president for~~  
114           ~~transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates~~  
115           ~~of its action. A senate may record and send its further comments to the president~~  
116           ~~for transmission to the Board of Trustees.~~

117  
118           ~~b. — An amendment shall become effective when approved by the Board of Trustees or at~~  
119           ~~such later time as the board may specify.~~

120  
121           a.   *Initiation of proposed amendments.* Proposed amendments to these *Statutes* may be  
122           initiated by a senate, the University Senates Conference, the president, or the Board  
123           of Trustees. The initiating body shall transmit in writing its proposed amendments  
124           with the rationale and any applicable comments. After receipt of any proposed  
125           amendments, the University Senates Conference may append its comments and

126 recommendations before transmitting them to the senates.

127

128 1. Each of the senates, according to its established procedures, may propose  
129 amendments to these Statutes, referring them to the University Senates  
130 Conference for transmission to the other senates for action as each senate shall  
131 determine.

132

133 2. The University Senates Conference, by majority vote of all members present  
134 and voting at a regular or special meeting, held not earlier than the next  
135 meeting following the one at which the proposal was introduced, may propose  
136 amendments to these Statutes, which shall be transmitted to the senates for  
137 such action as each senate shall determine.

138

139 3. The president may propose amendments to these Statutes, referring them to  
140 the University Senates Conference for transmission to the senates for such  
141 action as each senate shall determine.

142

143 4. The Board of Trustees, according to its established procedures, may propose  
144 amendments to these Statutes, referring them to the University Senate  
145 Conference via the president for transmission to the senates, seeking their  
146 advice, and for such action as each senate shall determine.

147

148 b. Senate advice on proposed amendments

149 1. Proposed amendments to these Statutes, once transmitted by the University  
150 Senates Conference to the senates, shall be considered promptly by each  
151 senate, which may act according to its own established procedures.

152

153 2. Each senate may concur, modify, or reject any proposed amendments to these  
154 Statutes. Final action in each senate on the proposed amendments may be  
155 taken by a majority vote of all members present and voting at a regular or

156 special meeting held not earlier than the next meeting following the one at  
157 which the proposal was introduced in that senate.

158

159 3. If each senate concurs with and acts affirmatively on the proposed  
160 amendments, then the conference shall send the proposed amendments to the  
161 president for transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously  
162 notify the senates of its action; the conference may append its comments and  
163 recommendations.

164

165 4. If the senates do not agree with the proposed amendments, the conference  
166 shall promote agreement among the senates, which may include coordinating  
167 communication amongst the senates, separating proposed amendments into  
168 individual proposals, or proposing language to reconcile differences among the  
169 senates.

170

171 5. If agreement cannot be effected among all the senates, but the text of any  
172 proposed amendments has been agreed upon by all but one of the senates,  
173 then the conference shall send the proposed amendments, the advice and  
174 rationale of each senate, and its own recommendations to the president for  
175 transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the  
176 senates of its action. A senate may record and send its further comments to the  
177 president for transmission to the Board of Trustees.

178

179 6. If all senates reject the proposed amendments, each senate shall submit a  
180 rationale for its rejection to the conference, which shall share the advice and  
181 rationale with the initiating body and all other senates.

182

183 c. *Incorporation of amendments into the Statutes*

184 After the advice of the senates has been collected following all applicable  
185 procedures in Article XIII, Section 8b, above, and only after all senates have  
186 voted and at least two senates have voted affirmatively to accept the

187 amendments in question, the conference may submit proposed amendments to  
188 the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees.

189  
190 Proposed amendments to these Statutes shall become effective when adopted  
191 by the Board of Trustees, or at such later time as the board may specify. The  
192 Board of Trustees may only adopt any proposed amendments after first having  
193 sought the advice of the president, the senates (as specified in Article XIII,  
194 Section 8b, above), and the University Senates Conference, but may amend the  
195 Statutes over the objections of those parties.

196

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

Shawn Gilmore, Chair

Felicia Commodore

Hunter Farnham

Franklin Gonzales

Robert Lawless

William Maher

Megan Pickens

Lindsey Stirek

Kelli Trei

Laura Czys, *ex officio*

Jessica Mette, *ex officio*

Jenny Roether, *ex officio*