

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND CREDENTIALS  
(Final; Information)

EC.26.10 2025-2026 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials (EC) during the 2025-2026 academic year. EC held three meetings during the fall 2025 semester (September 17, October 15, November 19) and four meetings during the spring 2026 semester (January 21, February 4, March 4, April 1). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS APPROVED BY THE SENATE

**EC.25.03, Apportionment of the Faculty Electorate**

For the 2025–2026 Senate elections, the faculty electorate consisted of 2,787 verified eligible faculty members, and the apportionment formula values of 5 and 12 produced 241 faculty senator seats. For the 2026–2027 Senate elections, the faculty electorate increased to 2,834 verified eligible faculty members. EC therefore proposed changing the apportionment values from 5 and 12 to 5 and 13 in order to bring the number of faculty senators closer to the *Constitution's* requirement of 200. Under the prior formula, the 2026–2027 election would have produced 244 faculty senator seats; under the revised formula, it produced 225 seats. The proposal was approved by EC on 11/19/2025 and approved by the Senate on 12/08/2025.

II. ITEMS REPORTED TO THE SENATE

**EC.26.01, 2025-2026 Faculty, Academic Professional, and Student Electorate Distribution, and Senator Distribution**

This report was submitted at the 2025-2026 Senate Elections and Organizational meeting on 05/05/2025.

**EC.26.02, 2025-2026 Urbana-Champaign Senate Membership**

This report was submitted at the 2025-2026 Senate Elections and Organizational meeting on 05/05/2025.

III. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

**EC.26.03, Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article II, Section 1(b) - Faculty Representation**

EC recommended a revision to the *Constitution*, Article II, Section 1(b) to remove the exclusion of otherwise eligible instructors and lecturers who are pursuing a degree at the University. EC concluded that the exclusion no longer reflects current campus practice and creates a mismatch between the *Constitution's* text and the way faculty electorate membership is administered in practice. EC also concluded that the *Constitution's* existing prohibition on dual-electorate membership adequately addresses concerns about overlap between the faculty and student

electorates. The proposal was presented to the Senate via SP.26.07 for a first reading on 02/09/2026 and for approval on 03/09/2026.

#### **EC.26.05, Student Election Board Role in Senate Elections**

EC considered the role of the Student Election Board (SEB) in Senate elections following the transition from the Campus Student Election Commission (CSEC) to the SEB. In connection with that transition, the committee addressed both interim and longer-term governance questions relating to the conduct of student senator elections. EC supported temporary measures to allow the SEB to conduct the relevant elections without interruption while recognizing the need for permanent revisions to the Senate *Bylaws* and *Election Rules for the Student Electorate*. The proposal was approved by EC on 01/21/2026 and approved by the Senate via SP.26.11, Delegate the Election of the 2026–2027 Student Senators to the Student Election Board (SEB), on 02/09/2026. EC expects to continue its work on permanent revisions to the governing documents to reflect the transition from CSEC to SEB.

#### **EC.26.07, Ninth Senate Review Commission Request for Committee Feedback from the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials**

A request from the Ninth Senate Review Commission (SR9) was received to provide feedback on EC's charge, composition, and function. EC responded to the request on 03/16/2026.

### **IV. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE**

#### **EC.24.05, Review of the Composition of the Senate and Senate Committees**

EC reviewed issues relating to the composition of the Senate and its committees and determined that EC continues to support expanded representation for academic professionals and staff. Consistent with that view, EC provided this recommendation to the Ninth Senate Review Commission (SR9) so that the question could receive a broader and more comprehensive review as part of SR9's examination of the future structure of the Senate.

#### **EC.26.04, Apportionment of the Student Electorate for 2026-2027**

EC reviewed and approved the apportionment of the student electorate for 2026–2027. In connection with that work, EC also discussed whether the Senate's current apportionment processes and methodology fully align with the governing documents. Those discussions highlighted potential areas where existing practice and governing language may not be in complete harmony. EC expects this to remain an ongoing area of review.

EC also met with representatives of the Graduate College to discuss the persistent rate of vacancies in graduate student Senate seats and to brainstorm possible approaches for reducing those vacancies. That discussion was exploratory in nature and focused on identifying practical ways to improve participation and the filling of available seats. EC expects this to remain an area of continued attention.

#### **EC.26.06, Proposed Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.9 - Elections and Credentials (membership)**

EC identified the need to revise the *Bylaws*, Part D.9, to reflect the transition from the Campus Student Election Commission (CSEC) to the Student Election Board (SEB). This work remains connected to the issues addressed in EC.26.05, Student Election Board Role in Senate Elections,

and will be part of the committee's continuing effort to align the Senate's governing documents with current election practices.

**EC.26.08. Revision to the Election Rules for the Student Electorate, Section 1 – Delegation of Power; Section 5 - Conducting Elections; Section 6 Certification of Election Results; Section 7 - Grievances and Appeals**

EC identified the need to review and, if necessary, revise these provisions of the *Election Rules for the Student Electorate* in light of the transition from the Campus Student Election Commission (CSEC) to the Student Election Board (SEB). This work remains connected to EC.26.05, Student Election Board Role in Senate Elections, and forms part of the committee's continuing effort to align the Senate's governing documents with current election practices.

**EC.26.09, Revision to the *Election Rules for the Faculty Electorate*, Section 7 – Conducting Elections**

EC identified the need to review the *Election Rules for the Faculty Electorate*, particularly Section 7, with specific attention to the requirement that both the nomination period and the election period last seven consecutive calendar days. The committee is reviewing whether greater flexibility in these timeframes is appropriate, particularly in the context of special elections.

ELECTIONS AND CREDENTIALS  
Matthew Hutchens, Chair  
Angel Chatterton  
Suzanne Franks  
Franklin Gonzales  
Marcus Kelley  
Anjali Kumar  
Ruthann Mowry  
Kevin Richards  
Kimberly Alexander-Brown, *ex officio*  
Domonic Cobb, *ex officio*  
Kristi Kuntz, *ex officio*  
Jenny Roether, *ex officio*  
Jamie Thomas-Ward, *ex officio*  
Jackson Pence, *ex officio*