

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

GP.26.07 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 academic year. GP held four meetings during the fall 2025 semester (September 3, October 8, November 5, December 3) and four meetings during the spring 2026 semester (January 27, February 24, March 24, April 21). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

**I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**

**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 (SP) on 03/19/2025 to revise its membership and to better clarify its duties. This item was approved by the Senate on 10/13/2025 via SP.25.08 (Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.12 – Committee on General University Policy).

**GP.26.01, Revision to the Senate Statement on Course Materials: Intellectual Property Rights and Professional Responsibility**

Minor revisions were needed to the Senate Statement on Course Materials: Intellectual Property Rights and Professional Responsibility. Specifically, revisions were needed to Section 2 indicating the circumstances under which instructors may be required to modify the format of course materials, or to share them with other than enrolled students. Ingrid Fulmer, Co-Chair of the Digital Accessibility and Excellence Steering Committee, recommended two options for adding a new item c) to this section:

**Option #1**

In response to a specific request for reasonable accommodation from a person with a disability, the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES), the ADA Coordinators, or another responsible office, in order to ensure that digital content and software technologies meet accessibility requirements under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Illinois IT Accessibility Act;

**Option #2**

To be consistent with accessibility requirements of current federal and state laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act Title II and the Illinois IT Accessibility Act requirements for digital accessibility;

At the September meeting, GP discussed a preference for Option #2. GP removed the item from its agenda on 11/05/2025.

**GP.26.03, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article II, Section 3a(1) and 3a(2) – Faculty Role in Governance (ST-91)**

On 11/18/2025, the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP) requested feedback from GP on ST-91, a proposed revision to the *Statutes* that would expand governance and voting rights to many non-tenure system faculty through changes to the definition of “faculty.” GP reviewed the proposal and discussed its potential implications for shared governance at the unit, college, and campus levels.

GP identified several governance concerns arising from the proposal, particularly the likelihood that the mandated expansion of voting and governance rights could create conflicts with existing unit bylaws, contractual employment terms, and established decision-making structures related to appointments, evaluation, advancement, and disciplinary processes. GP also noted that adoption of ST-91 as proposed would require extensive review and revision of departmental bylaws and other governance documents across the system, with the potential for uneven or conflicting implementations.

While GP supports and encourages the participation of non-tenure track faculty in shared governance, the committee did not support mandating such participation through the specific statutory changes proposed in ST-91. Instead, GP recommended retaining the current language of Section 3a(1), clarifying Section 3a(2) to preserve unit-level flexibility in granting governance privileges, and supporting the inclusion of the proposed Section 3a(3). GP transmitted its feedback and a proposed amendment for consideration by the Senate to SP on 03/24/2026.

**GP.26.04, Proposed Revision to CAM Policy FO-36, Information Security**

From October 2025 through January 2026, GP reviewed proposed revisions to the Campus Administrative Manual concerning data classification and labeling. At the October meeting, Chuck Geigner, Associate Director of Information Security attended, provided an overview of the revisions, and took input from GP. On 11/20/2025, GP sent preliminary feedback to Geigner. After drafting, revising, and submitting final feedback to Geigner on 12/16/2025, and receiving Geigner’s response on 01/24/2026, GP concluded its work on the item. The item was removed from the agenda on 01/27/2026.

**GP.26.05, Revised Policy on Integrity in Research and Scholarly Activities (OT-393)**

At the December meeting, the Revised Policy on Integrity in Research and Scholarly Activities was introduced, which was updated in response to new regulations on research misconduct from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. GP, along with other committees, was requested to review the revisions by the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) so that SEC could compile feedback to the University Senates Conference (USC) by 05/01/2026. At the February meeting, GP reviewed and discussed the revised policy and noted in its feedback that the policy's definition of "evidence"

does not exactly align with the definition in the Code of Federal Regulations. Feedback was sent to SEC by 02/27/2026.

**GP.26.06, Ninth Senate Review Commission Request for Committee Feedback from the Senate Committee on General University Policy**

A request from the Ninth Senate Review Commission (SR9) was received to provide feedback on GP's charge, composition, and function. GP responded to the request on 02/16/2026.

**II. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE**

**GP.26.02, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 7a – Sabbatical Leaves and Unpaid Leaves of Absence for Members of the Faculty (ST-90)**

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP) shared the proposed revision to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 7a, which would extend the eligibility to apply for sabbatical leave with pay to faculty ineligible for tenure. The proposed revision was approved by the UIC Senate on 03/14/2024. SP asked GP to review the proposed revision and requested input on: (1) size of the impact, (2) potential impact on Provost's Communications, and (3) potential impact to teaching and any related governance issues.

GP discussed this item at each of its regular meetings during AY25-26 (September 3, October 8, November 5, December 3, January 27, February 24, March 24). GP reviewed the existing language regarding sabbatical leaves in the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 7: "...may be granted a sabbatical leave of absence with pay for the purpose of study, research, or other pursuit, the object of which is to increase the faculty member's usefulness to the system."

Over the course of its discussions, GP members raised a number of issues and requests for additional information, including: purpose of sabbatical leaves in academia (as compared with industry practices); sabbatical leave practices at peer institutions; data on number of non-tenure-system faculty; input from University administrators, including department executive officers; proposed rationale for sabbatical leaves for non-tenure-system faculty; the relationship between sabbatical leaves and collective bargaining agreements; differences in labor performed by tenure-system and non-tenure-system faculty; percentages of faculty who currently take sabbatical leaves; opportunities for leave currently available to specialized faculty; and potential financial impact on the University.

In response to a request from the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) for coordination of data requests for this issue among Senate committees, the Office of the Provost prepared a report on the financial impact of different scenarios for sabbaticals for specialized faculty. At the March meeting, Jessica Mette, Assistant Provost for Faculty Appointments and Policy Administration, shared the data, which was also shared with

the Council of Deans and would soon be shared with the Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits (FB) and SP. Following the presentation, GP offered comments and questions, including: why the estimated costs seemed unrealistically low; what are the University's long-term plans (benchmarks) for hiring of tenure-system and non-tenure-system faculty; the difficulty of generalizing about non-tenure-system faculty labor; and historical development of sabbatical leaves in relation to tenure-track positions.

### III. ITEMS FOR ANNUAL REVIEW

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

GP conducted its annual review of the composition of the faculty during the 2025–2026 academic year and discussed this item at the September meeting and the March meeting. GP focused on the statutory requirement for a 15% binding ceiling on multi-year contract appointments relative to tenure-system faculty and discussed whether this ceiling remains the most appropriate metric. GP considered monitoring the ratio between tenure-system and non-tenure-system faculty and possibly changing the binding ceiling level. Further discussion is expected in the coming academic year.

#### **GP.16.02, Criminal Background Check Policy**

At the April meeting, Stone shared information on criminal background checks.

#### **GP.18.01, Faculty Policy Guide**

The need for edits to the Faculty Policy Guide were noted at the September and October meetings. During these discussions, GP members identified outdated links and references within the guide. Preliminary review notes were shared among committee members, with the expectation that updates will be implemented during the next cycle.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICY  
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