

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

SP.26.17 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 academic year. SP held nine meetings during the fall 2025 semester, presided over by Chair David Dalpiaz (August 27, September 10, September 24, October 8, October 22, November 5, November 19, December 3, December 17) and eight meetings during the spring 2026 semester, presided over by Chair Shawn Gilmore (January 22, February 5, February 19, March 5, March 26, April 2, April 16, April 23). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS APPROVED BY THE SENATE

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.a(6) so that those with a “principal” modifier can readily identify where they belong in these sections. The item was approved by SP on 09/24/2025 and was approved by the Senate on 11/10/2025. Subsequently, SP.25.01 was designated ST-94 by the University Senates Conference.

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 re-orient the section around the activity of the senates and clarify when the University Senates Conference can act. Further, the revisions more clearly specify when rationales and materials should be transmitted. The revisions aim to maintain the *status quo* but be easier to follow. The item was approved by SP on 01/22/2026 and presented for a first reading on 02/09/2026. It was presented for approval by the Senate on 03/09/2026 but was referred back to SP for further consideration. The proposed revisions were amended to address the Senate’s concerns and returned to the Senate, where they were approved on 04/07/2026.

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. The item was approved by SP on 09/10/2025 and approved by the Senate on 10/13/2025.

SP.26.03, Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article II, Section 10 and Article V, Sections 1-2, and Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part B.5 (reference to the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign)

The revisions removed mention of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign from the Senate *Constitution* and *Bylaws* following its closure. The revision also removed *Bylaws* language that referred to its specific electorates and replaced it with a general reference to “a Senate electorate.” The item was approved by SP on 09/10/2025 and approved by the Senate on 11/10/2025. The proposed changes to the *Constitution* were approved by the Board of Trustees on 01/15/26.

SP.26.04, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part B.3 and Part D.6.d – Chair of Committee on Committees

The *Bylaws* revision aligned timing of the election of the Senate Committee on Committees (CC) chair with the election of the other standing committee chairs to ensure consistency, eliminate delays in Senate Executive Committee (SEC) representation, and to strengthen the continuity of Senate operations at the start of each academic year. The item was approved by SP on 11/05/2025 and approved by the Senate on 12/08/2025.

SP.26.07, Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article II, Section 1b

The Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials recommended a *Constitution* revision to remove the degree seeking exclusion in Article II, §1(b) and relying on the existing cross-electorate prohibition in Article IV, §1 to prevent dual membership. The item was approved by SP on 02/05/2026, presented for a first reading by the Senate on 02/09/2026, and approved by the Senate on 03/09/2026.

SP.26.08, Revision to *Standing Rules 1 – Adjournment and 16 – Requesting to Speak at a Senate or Senate Committee Meeting*

These *Standing Rules* revisions made the language more precise, easier to read and understand, and made clear that discussion of business must end at 5:15 p.m., while also clarifying the parameters of public comment and floor privileges for external readers. The item was approved by SP on 03/05/2026 and approved by the Senate on 03/09/2026.

SP.26.10, Revision to *Standing Rule 15 – Use of Electronic Clickers in the Senate*

These *Standing Rules* revision generalized the language to better allow for shifts in electronic voting methods, while also spelling out compliance with the Illinois Open

Meetings Act (OMC) for clarity. The item was approved by SP on 02/05/2026 and approved by the Senate on 02/09/2026.

SP.26.11, Delegate the Election of the 2026-2027 Student Senators to the Student Election Board (SEB)

In summer 2025, the Campus Student Elections Commission (CSEC) was dissolved and replaced by the Student Election Board (SEB). Subsequently, SP recommended a provisional delegation of the 2026-27 student elections to the SEB. SP also recommended that prior to the publication of the election rules in November 2026, SP shall recommend revisions to the *Bylaws* and *Election Rules* [see SP.26.13, below]. The item was approved by SP on 02/05/2026 and approved by the Senate on 02/09/2026.

SP.26.12, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part F.7 – Remote Participation in Senate and Senate Committee Meetings

The Clerk of the Senate and Office of the Senate administrative staff recommended a *Bylaws* revision to reduce the notice requirement for remote participation in a Senate meeting or a Senate committee meeting from 24 hours to 4 hours. Additional revisions clarified *Bylaws* F.7 and incorporated a new permitted exception for remote participation under the Open Meetings Act (5 ILC 120/7) as of January 2026. The item was approved by SP on 03/05/2026 and approved by the Senate on 03/09/2026.

II. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

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

In August 2022, 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 SP found that it was not the appropriate time to consider these revisions. The item was removed from the agenda by SP on 08/27/2025.

SP.26.06, Revision to *Standing Rule 14.C*– Setting the Agenda for Senate Meetings

In October 2025, Senate Executive Committee Chair Angie Lyons asked SP to review *Standing Rule 14.c* “and develop some ideas for how we might revise *Standing Rule 14.c*.” Following committee discussion and correspondence with SP Chair Dalpiaz, SEC Chair Lyons withdrew the request at the end of November 2025, noting that the “work is more appropriately a task for GP and the [Senate Review] Commission.” SP disagreed with this characterization of both SP and GP’s charges, dismissing the proposal as requested. The item was removed from the agenda by SP on 12/03/2025.

SP.26.09, Ninth Senate Review Commission Request for Committee Feedback from the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures

A request from the Ninth Senate Review Commission (SR9) was received to provide feedback on SP's charge, composition, and function. The chair collated individual committee member feedback and SP discussed its responses, voting them forward on 03/05/2026. SP responded to the request on 03/11/2026.

SP.26.16, Call for Volunteers to Serve as 2026-2027 Parliamentarians

This has been accomplished. The parliamentarians are William Maher and Sara Benson.

III. ITEMS SCHEDULED TO BE APPROVED BY THE SENATE ON APRIL 27, 2026

SP.26.02, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article II, Sections 3a(1) and 3a(2) – Faculty Role in Governance (ST-91)

ST-91, which originated with the Chicago Senate, was transmitted to the Urbana Senate by the University Senates Conference on 04/22/2025. SP considered ST-91 throughout the 2025-26 academic year, referring questions to the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, the Senate Committee on General University Policy, and the Council of Deans via the Office of the Provost. ST-91 was presented to the Senate on 10/13/25, 12/08/15, and 04/07/26, to give senators opportunities to respond to its potential changes to the definition of "faculty." The proposal, containing SP's recommendations regarding the changes proposed in ST-91, was voted forward at the 04/23/2026 SP meeting and will be presented for approval at the 04/27/2026 Senate meeting.

SP.26.05, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part B.8-9 (committee chair vacancy)

SP drafted language to better specify processes to be followed when the chair of a standing senate committee (other than the Senate Executive Committee, which is already specific) is vacated.

SP.26.15, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.4 – Committee on the Budget (membership)

The Senate Committee on the Budget (BG) submitted a potential *Bylaws* revision, proposing the replacement of the "Provost or Provost's designee" with the new Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration as an *ex officio* member of BG.

IV. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

SP.26.01, Proposed Revision to the *Statutes*, Article IX, Section 7a – Sabbatical Leaves and Unpaid Leaves of Absence for Members of the Faculty (ST-90)

ST-90, which originated with the Chicago Senate, was transmitted to the Urbana Senate by the University Senates Conference on 04/22/2025. SP considered ST-90 throughout the 2025-26 academic year, referring questions to the Senate Committee on General University Policy, the Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits, and the Council of Deans via the Office of the Provost. In late March and early April 2026, the

Office of the Provost presented information on the potential impacts of ST-90 on the sabbatical system. SP will continue review of the proposed revisions during the 2026-2027 academic year.

SP.26.13, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part C.2.c – Student Elections; Part D.9 – Committee on Elections and Credentials

Following approval of SP.26.11 by the Senate on 02/09/2026, SP began integrating the new Student Election Board (SEB) in place of the dissolved Campus Student Elections Commission (CSEC), also proposing changes to the charge to the Committee on Elections and Credentials. SP will continue review of the proposed revisions during the 2026-2207 academic year.

SP.26.14, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.1.a.11

The *Bylaws* revision would remove an obsolete reference to the “Research Policy Committee” which was removed from the *Bylaws* by SP.24.07 (Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.17 and Part E.8 – Committee on Research Policy) approved by the Senate on 04/22/2024 when the Senate Committee on Research Policy was created. SP will continue review of the proposed revisions during the 2026-2027 academic year.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

Shawn Gilmore, Chair
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Franklin Gonzales
Robert Lawless
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