

University Senates Conference ST-91

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
CHICAGO SENATE**

(Second Reading Action Item, March 14, 2024 Senate Meeting)

(Amendments Second Reading Action Item, January 30, 2025 Senate Meeting)

Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II, Sections 3a(1) and 3a(2) – Faculty Role in Governance

BACKGROUND:

The number and proportion of academic staff ineligible for tenure has risen steadily in the U of I System and nationally, yet these individuals, who engage in teaching, research, and service, are not currently included in the *Statutes*' definition of "faculty" for governance purposes. Due to this exclusion, they are denied access to shared governance at the department and college levels and are prohibited from participating on committees with direct relevance to their work conditions, e.g., committees focusing on reappointment and/or promotion decisions. This *Statute* revision will extend the governance rights enjoyed by academic staff ineligible for tenure at the University level (i.e., University senate) to the department and college levels. Department and college bylaws may mandate a minimum percentage faculty appointment for voting privileges and shall determine the tenure status and minimum percentage appointment for members of committees making decisions about awarding indefinite tenure to those eligible or promoting faculty with indefinite tenure.

Affected sections include

- Article III, Section 2b (Faculty of a College)
- Article IV, Section 1a (Faculty of a Department)
- Article IV, Section 4 (Changing a department from one with a head to one with a chair)
- Article IX, Section 6a (Severe Sanctions Other Than Dismissal for Cause for Members of the Faculty)

RECOMMENDATION:

The Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws and *Statutes* recommends approval of the following revisions to the *Statutes*: Article II, Sections 3a(1) and 3a(2). Text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~ and text to be added is underlined. The proposed UIC Senate amendments to University Senates Conference ST-91/UIC ST-24.02 are noted in red font.

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Section 3. Faculty Role in Governance

a. (1) The faculty of the University of Illinois System and any of its units except for the Graduate College consists of those members of the academic staff with the rank or title in that unit of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor who are tenured or receiving probationary credit toward tenure, members of the academic staff with the rank or title in that unit of professor, associate professor, assistant professor modified by “teaching,” “research,” “clinical,” or instructor or lecturer with or without a “senior” modifier, and those administrators in the direct line of responsibility for academic affairs (persons who hold the title director or dean in an academic unit, provost or equivalent officer, chancellor/vice president and president). Administrative staff members not in the direct line of responsibility for academic affairs are members of the faculty only if they also hold faculty appointments. The bylaws of any academic unit may further mandate a minimum percent faculty appointment in that unit for specified faculty privileges, such as voting privileges. For decisions regarding indefinite tenure, the bylaws may require a minimum rank, seniority, or percent appointment in that unit.

(2) The bylaws of a unit may grant specified faculty privileges to selected faculty of other units. The bylaws may also grant specified faculty privileges to members of the academic staff of the unit or of other units who are not included in subsection 1 above (~~i.e., neither tenured nor receiving probationary credit toward tenure~~), and who have the rank or title of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, instructor, or lecturer. The bylaws may also grant specified faculty privileges to members of the academic staff of the unit or of other units who have the rank or title of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, instructor, or lecturer modified by the terms “research,” “adjunct,” “clinical,” “visiting” and/or “emeritus” (e.g., ~~“research professor,” “adjunct assistant professor,” “clinical associate professor,” “visiting professor”~~). Only academic staff with titles listed above may be extended faculty privileges. Voting on these provisions of the bylaws is limited to those named in subsection (1) above. Voting on bylaws provisions regarding indefinite tenure is limited to tenure system faculty.

(3) Voting to award an appointment or a promotion is limited to individuals who hold a rank at or above the rank being considered. Voting to award an appointment or a promotion with indefinite tenure is limited to those with indefinite tenure.