

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

University Statutes and Senate Procedures Committee
(Information; First Reading)

SP.06.05 Revision to the *Statutes*, Article VIII

BACKGROUND

Part 1: Original April 2006 UIUC Senate Action on SP.06.05. At the April 24, 2006 meeting, the UIUC Senate passed a proposal to amend the University *Statutes* in regard to the protocols for approvals of changes in academic units. The rationale behind that proposal was to eliminate ambiguities in the University *Statutes* Article VIII language governing formation and other changes in the organization of academic units such as departments, institutes, and colleges. The resolution sought to clarify two key, interrelated concepts: that every faculty member should have a “tenure home” and the process of securing “advice of the faculty” during any restructuring of units in which tenure was held. A faculty member may have a tenure home in more than one academic unit, but must have a tenure home in at least one academic unit.

Establishing a definition of “tenure home” was a particularly important part of the proposal’s efforts to advance shared governance. Prior efforts to write statutory language ensuring faculty consultation when changes were made to departments, schools, colleges, etc. had been eviscerated as campus needs and initiatives occasionally found it expedient to make such changes, especially the creation of new programs and units, without the kind of faculty review called for in *Statutes* Article VIII. As a result, it became possible for faculty to be appointed to units with no administrative mandate or structure for promotion and tenure review. Because major organizational changes (e.g. creation, mergers, separations, and terminations) of units can have a fundamental effect on the conduct of a faculty member’s career, SP.06.05 was designed to address this prior oversight by identifying the means by which faculty advice was to be obtained for such changes and by relating the issue to the nature of a faculty member’s tenure home.

Part 2: Change to “Tenure Home” Made by UIS Senate. The UIUC Senate approved the proposal in 2006, and the UIC Senate did so in 2007. The UIS Senate did not act until September 2008 when they approved it by amending one paragraph necessitating the present return of the proposal to UIUC and UIC before it can be forwarded to the University Senates Conference for referral to the Board of Trustees.

The specific change that the UIS Senate made to SP.06.05 related to only the paragraph which defined “tenure home.” Basically, because the processing of tenure reviews occurs somewhat differently on the Springfield campus, the sequence of the two parts of the definition was reversed, along with a couple of other wording changes to that paragraph. The resultant new paragraph (which can be found at lines 6-10 below) is:

A tenure home is an academic unit (a) whose academic staff includes the group eligible to vote on promotion and tenure decisions within the unit; and (b) that provides the unit-specific standards that, in compliance with higher-level standards, apply for promotion and tenure decisions for a member of the academic staff with the rank or title of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor who is tenured or receiving probationary credit toward tenure.

The original UIUC language from 2006 was:

A tenure home is an academic unit (a) that provides the unit-specific standards that, along with higher-level standards, apply for promotion and tenure decisions for a member of the academic staff with the rank or title of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor who is tenured or receiving probationary credit toward tenure and (b) whose tenured academic staff comprise the group eligible to vote on promotion and tenure decisions within the unit.

Because the required changes recommended and approved in SP.06.05 are highly technical and because those changes must be made to statutory provisions that are themselves quite complicated, USSP encourages any Senator wishing further information on the issues to read the full Background that was presented to the Senate in 2006. It can be seen at: http://www.senate.illinois.edu/sp0605_2.asp

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revisions to the *Statutes*. Text to be deleted is indicated in [square brackets] and text to be added is underscored.

1 **PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE STATUTES, ARTICLE VIII**

2 **ARTICLE VIII, CHANGES IN ACADEMIC ORGANIZATION**

3 **Section 1. Definitions.**

4 a. *Unit.* A unit is a division of the University to which academic appointments can be made and to which
5 resources can be allocated, including departments or similar units, centers, institutes, schools, and colleges.

6 b. *Tenure Home.* A tenure home is an academic unit (a) whose academic staff includes the group eligible to
7 vote on promotion and tenure decisions within the unit; and (b) that provides the unit-specific standards that, in
8 compliance with higher-level standards, apply for promotion and tenure decisions for a member of the academic
9 staff with the rank or title of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor who is tenured or receiving
10 probationary credit toward tenure.

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12 **Section 2. Appointment of Faculty to Units**

13 A member of the academic staff with the rank or title of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor
14 who is tenured or receiving probationary credit toward tenure must have a tenure home that has been approved
15 through the procedures in Article VIII, Section 3a through 3c, below. A faculty member may have a tenure
16 home in more than one academic unit, but must have a tenure home in at least one academic unit.

17 If any member of a proposed or existing unit's academic staff with the rank or title of professor, associate
18 professor, or assistant professor who is tenured or receiving probationary credit toward tenure does not already
19 have or will not otherwise have an appointment in one of the following types of units:

20 i. another department or similar academic unit that has been approved through these Article VIII
21 procedures;

22 ii. an intermediate unit that is not divided into departments or similar units and that has been approved
23 through these Article VIII procedures; or

24 iii. a school or college that is not an intermediate unit, that is not further divided into academic departments
25 or similar units and that has been approved through these Article VIII procedures;

26 then formation of the proposed unit as, or conversion of the existing unit into, a unit that may provide a tenure
27 home must be approved through the procedures in Article VIII, Section 3a through 3c, below, as applicable.

28 Any change in academic organization such as the termination, separation, transfer, merger, change in status
29 (e.g., department to school), or renaming of an academic unit to which are made appointments of faculty with

30 the rank or title of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor who are tenured or receiving
31 probationary credit toward tenure must be approved through the procedures in Article VIII, Section 4, below.

32
33 If all members of a proposed or existing unit's academic staff with the rank or title of professor, associate
34 professor, or assistant professor who are tenured or receiving probationary credit toward tenure do have or will
35 have an appointment in another unit that is described within items (i) through (iii), above, then formation or
36 change of organization of the proposed or existing unit is not required to be approved through the procedures in
37 Article VIII, Sections 3 and 4, below, but may be approved through the procedure in Section 5, below.

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39 **Section [1] 3. Formation of New Units**

40 **a. Departments.** The formation of a new department or similar academic unit within a school or college may be
41 proposed by the faculty or executive officer of that school or college. The president shall submit the proposal
42 for the new unit together with the advice of the faculty of the school or college of each higher unit, taken and
43 recorded by a vote of the faculty by secret written ballot in accordance with the bylaws of that unit, of the
44 appropriate senate, taken and recorded by a vote of the senate, [and] of the appropriate chancellor, and of the
45 University Senates Conference to the Board of Trustees for action.

46 **b. Intermediate Units.** An academic unit of intermediate character, such as a school organized within a college,
47 may be proposed by the faculty or the executive officer of the higher unit. The president shall submit the
48 proposal for the intermediate unit together with the advice of the higher unit, taken and recorded by a vote of the
49 faculty by secret written ballot in accordance with the bylaws of that unit, of the appropriate senate, taken and
50 recorded by a vote of the senate, [and] of the appropriate chancellor, and of the University Senates Conference
51 to the Board of Trustees for action.

52 **c. Colleges and Independently Organized Campus Units.** A college or other independently organized campus
53 unit, such as a school, institute, center, or similar campus unit not within a school or college, may be proposed
54 by the appropriate senate or chancellor. The president shall submit the proposal for the unit together with the
55 advice of the appropriate senate, taken and recorded by a vote of the senate, [and] of the appropriate chancellor,
56 and of the University Senates Conference to the Board of Trustees for action.

57 **d. Units Organized at the University Level.** Units organized at the university level, such as institutes, councils,
58 and divisions, may be formed for the development and operation of teaching, research, extension, and service
59 programs which are statewide or intercampus in their scope and which cannot be developed under a campus
60 administration. Such an organization may be proposed by a senate, a chancellor, the University Senates
61 Conference, or the president. The president shall submit the proposal for the new organization together with the
62 advice of the appropriate senates, taken and recorded by a vote of each such senate, [and] of the appropriate
63 chancellors, and of the University Senates Conference to the Board of Trustees for action.

64 **e. Campuses.** The formation of a new campus may be proposed by the president, by a senate, or by the
65 University Senates Conference. The president shall submit the proposal for the new campus together with the
66 advice of the senates, taken and recorded by a vote of each senate, [and] of the chancellors, and of the

67 University Senates Conference to the Board of Trustees for action. If the proposal is adopted, the University
68 Senates Conference shall serve as an advisory body to the president in developing procedures to implement the
69 action of the board.

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71 **Section [2] 4. Changes in Existing Units**

72 From time to time, circumstances will favor changes in academic organization such as the termination,
73 separation, transfer, merger, change in status (e.g., department to school), or renaming of the academic units
74 specified in Section [1]3. The procedures for the various changes shall be the same as those specified for
75 formation of such a unit, except that the proposal may originate in the unit(s) or at any higher administrative
76 level. The advice of each unit involved shall be [requested] taken and recorded by vote of the faculty by secret
77 written ballot in accordance with the bylaws of that unit. For transfer, merger, separation, and change in status,
78 the procedures shall be those applicable to the type of unit which would result. Units affected may communicate
79 with the Board of Trustees in accordance with Article XIII, Section 4, of these *Statutes*.

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81 **Section [3] 5. Academic Units Not Requiring Board of Trustees Approval**

82 Any proposal for creation or change in organization (such as termination, separation, transfer, merger, or change
83 in status) of any unit engaged in academic activities the creation of which does not require Board of Trustees
84 approval shall be referred to the executive committee of the campus senate for its information and advice prior
85 to approval by the appropriate administrator. If the unit is not organized within one campus of the University,
86 the proposal shall be referred to the University Senates Conference rather than to a senate executive committee.
87 Academic staff appointments in such units may not be made to ranks subject to the provisions of Article X,
88 Section 1, governing appointments for an indefinite term as defined in Article IX, Section 3c.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

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