

Board Meeting  
January 20, 2011

APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS *STATUTES*

**Action:** Approve Amendments to the University of Illinois *Statutes*

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

Attached are amendments to the University of Illinois *Statutes* in regard to the protocols for approvals of changes in academic units. The rationale behind the proposal is 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 amendments 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.

Establishing a definition of “tenure home” is 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 the *Statutes* Article VIII. As a result, it became possible for faculty to be appointed to units with no Senate 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, these amendments are designed to address this prior oversight by identifying the means by which faculty advice is to be obtained for such changes and by relating the issue to the nature of a faculty member's tenure home. 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.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The changes to the University of Illinois *Statutes* have the support of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the campus senates, and the University Senates Conference.

The President of the University recommends approval.

## PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE *STATUTES*

Text to be added is in underscore and text to be deleted is in ~~strikethrough~~.

### ARTICLE VIII, CHANGES IN ACADEMIC ORGANIZATION

#### Section 1. Definitions.

- a. *Unit.* For the purposes of Article VIII, a unit is a division of the University to which academic appointments can be made and to which resources can be allocated, including departments or similar units, centers, institutes, schools, and colleges.
- b. *Tenure Home.* For the purposes of Article VIII, 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.

#### Section 2. Appointment of Faculty to Units

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 must have a tenure home that has been approved through the procedures in Article VIII, Section 3a through 3c, below. 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.

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

- i. another department or similar academic unit that has been approved through these Article VIII procedures;
- ii. an intermediate unit that is not divided into departments or similar units and that has been approved through these Article VIII procedures; or

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

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

Any change in academic organization such as the termination, separation, transfer, merger, change in status (e.g., department to school), or renaming of an academic unit to which are made appointments of faculty with the rank or title of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor who are tenured or receiving probationary credit toward tenure must be approved through the procedures in Article VIII, Section 4, below.

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

### Section 4 ~~3~~. Formation of New Units

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

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

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

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

e. *Campuses.* The formation of a new campus may be proposed by the president, by a senate, or by the University Senates Conference. The president shall submit the proposal for the new campus together with the advice of the senates, taken and recorded by a vote of each senate, and of the chancellors, and of the University Senates Conference to the Board of Trustees for action. If the proposal is adopted, the University Senates

Conference shall serve as an advisory body to the president in developing procedures to implement the action of the board.

#### Section 2 4. Changes in Existing Units

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

#### Section 3 5. Academic Units Not Requiring Board of Trustees Approval

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