

Board Meeting  
July 23, 2015

CHANGES IN SENATE BYLAWS  
(Report for Information)

The University of Illinois *Statutes* provide that changes in Senate bylaws are reported to the Board of Trustees. The proposed changes to the Urbana-Champaign Senate are attached.

The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further senate jurisdiction is involved. The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois and the Vice President for Academic Affairs concur in the recommended changes in the bylaws.

The President of the University recommends receipt of the bylaw changes.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE  
University Statutes and Senate Procedures  
(Final; Action)

SP.14.03 Amendments to Nicknames in the *Senate Election Rules for the Student Electorate*

**BACKGROUND**

Many people often use a nickname instead of their full given or legal name. For example, someone named “Matthew” may often identify with the nickname “Matt.” There are also some people who use facetious nicknames, so someone named “Matthew” may identify with the nickname “Mattypoo.” The current *Senate Election Rules for the Student Electorate* state that students may use a nickname they are commonly referred to as on the ballot, but it states nothing about the intent or legitimacy of nicknames.

The Campus Student Elections Commission’s (CSEC) only attempt in preventing the misuse of nicknames is currently reserving the right to refuse the use of a nickname if it believes a candidate is using it to gain an unfair advantage. However, this policy is not in the *Senate Election Rules for the Student Electorate*.

One example of nicknames influencing an election was in 2002. The student body elected its President and Vice President, and both candidates used facetious nicknames on the ballot. One student ran for Student Body President using the nickname “Gordon T. Gnome Meron,” and another student ran for Student Body Vice President using the nickname “Hale T. Snail DePriest.” These nicknames referenced comic strip characters from *The Daily Illini*. Both candidates received the most amount of votes, but the CSEC disqualified the candidates.

Additionally, in recent year’s student elections, there were multiple candidates who used facetious nicknames. In almost every case, a candidate that used a facetious nickname won his or her race. Some candidates even used a facetious nickname in a competitive race while using no nickname in another non-competitive race. All of these instances prompted Student Senators and committee members to propose IA.2013.47 *Amendments to Nicknames in Senate Election Rules* for the Student Electorate, which was adopted by the Illinois Student Senate on April 10, 2013.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revisions to the *Senate Election Rules for the Student Electorate*. Text to be added is underscored and text to be deleted is indicated by ~~strikeout~~ (e.g., ~~sample text for deletion~~).

**PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE SENATE ELECTION RULES FOR THE STUDENT ELECTORATE**

9. Ballots

• 9.3 *Contents*. The ballot shall contain the following:

- (a.) name of the college;
- (b.) designation of the election unit and number of senators to be elected;
- (c.) the names of the nominees by unit; and
- (d.) directions on proper voting procedures.

In the designation of a candidate's name on the ballot, the candidate's surname shall be used. In addition, any combination of the following designations may be used at the discretion of the candidate as space dictates: the candidate's full or shortened given name, and/or the candidate's initial(s), ~~and/or a nickname by which the candidate is commonly known~~. Nicknames may be used if the candidate can demonstrate prior common usage upon request.

No designation may be used in addition to the candidate's surname which suggests or implies possession of a degree or title, nor may a candidate's nickname be designed to intentionally mislead voters.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

William Maher, Chair

H. George Friedman

Wendy Harris

Scott Jacobs

Calvin Lear

Anna-Maria Marshall

Mark Roszkowski

Cheyenne Wu

Sandy Jones, *Ex officio (designee)*

Jenny Roether, *Ex officio*

Dedra Williams, *Observer*

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SP.14.12      Revision to *Standing Rule 13*

**BACKGROUND**

According to the *Senate Bylaws*, the Committee on Educational Policy is responsible for “educational policy matters over which the Senate has legislative jurisdiction, including . . . initiation, changes or discontinuance of curricula” (Part D (8)(2)). In meeting the obligations described in the *Bylaws*, Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) relies on *Standing Rule 13* which describes a process for review of proposed changes to academic units, including formation, termination, separation, transfer and other changes in status. This proposal would amend *Standing Rule 13* to clarify that process in situations where changes in the scope or size of a program might have a significant impact on an academic unit.

In recent years, EPC has identified several situations where departments, colleges and the administration make changes to academic units that are outside the scope of *Standing Rule 13* but that nevertheless have a lasting impact on both students and faculty. For example, the EPC reviews the opening and closing of programs and degrees, but does not review their size or their scope. Thus, a unit may unilaterally make a dramatic increase in the number of students it chooses to admit to a program, which may have the effect of undercutting other programs. In addition, a department, college, or the Office of Admissions can effectively close a program by not admitting students. Thus, changes to program size and scope can be used to circumvent faculty governance over programs and curriculum.

The proposed revisions would also address other situations that might affect campus organization, such as administration decisions about the way that disciplines are arranged in campus structures.

The nature of the EPC review in this proposed revision would also provide greater transparency and accountability in the review processes. The EPC would be able to collect and retain memoranda of understandings among departments, colleges and administrators.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revisions to *Standing Rule 13*. Text to be added is underscored and text to be deleted is indicated by ~~strikeout~~ (e.g., ~~sample text for deletion~~).

**PROPOSED REVISION TO *STANDING RULE 13***

1 **Formation, Termination, Separation, Transfer, Merger, Change in Status, or Renaming of**  
2 **Units**

- 3 • A. If a unit of academic governance or administration intends to make a significant  
4 change to the enrollment or faculty in a current degree, major, minor, concentration, or  
5 other educational program, it must first file with the Senate Committee on Educational  
6 Policy a statement detailing its intent. Any student, staff or faculty member or  
7 administrator who believes such a change is being contemplated may also ask the  
8 committee to determine whether the change would be of sufficient magnitude to require  
9 submission.

10 After receiving the statement, the committee may require verification that the proposing  
11 unit has informed all affected units, faculty and enrolled students. The committee may  
12 solicit comments from these and additional parties. Upon review of these materials, the  
13 committee shall determine what further action is required, including a public hearing,  
14 periodic re-evaluation of the proposal’s progress, or further Senate action.

15 For the purposes of this Standing Rule, “significant” changes shall be those that are  
16 intended to last two years or more and that lead to modification of faculty size by at least  
17 25 percent or student enrollment by at least 25 percent (for programs with 100 or more  
18 students) or at least 50 percent (for programs with fewer than 100 students).

19 Plans that seek eventual termination of a program require approval by the committee and  
20 the Senate before any action is taken to terminate admissions, transfer faculty or remove  
21 the program from a unit website or the campus Programs of Study.

- 22 • AB. In order to provide for active discussion of a proposal for termination, separation,  
23 transfer, merger, or change in status of any academic unit, the originator of the proposal  
24 (e.g., Dean of College, Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs) and the Chair of the  
25 Senate Committee on Educational Policy shall, well in advance of the proposal being  
26 forwarded to the Senate, determine an appropriate forum for a public hearing and appoint  
27 a person to chair the hearing. The originator of the proposal and Chair of the Senate

28 Committee on Educational Policy (or their designees) shall attend the meeting.  
29 Responsibility for providing a meeting place, publicizing the hearing, and preparing  
30 minutes shall rest with the originator of the proposal. The Senate Committee on  
31 Educational Policy shall be responsible for collecting written comments and assuring that  
32 all of the necessary tasks are completed in an acceptable manner. Minutes shall be taken  
33 and forwarded to the Senate; a full transcription of the hearing is not necessary. The chair  
34 of the hearing shall encourage presenters to provide written comments that shall be  
35 forwarded to the Senate.

- 36 • B.C. In any proposal for the formation or change in academic organization (such as,  
37 termination, separation, transfer, merger, change in status, or renaming) of an academic  
38 unit, as provided in the *University Statutes*, Article VIII, the advice of the faculty at each  
39 level (e.g., department, school, college, as applicable) shall be taken and recorded by vote  
40 of the faculty. Voting shall be as provided in the bylaws of each unit. The vote shall be  
41 reported to the Senate by the Committee on Educational Policy when the proposed  
42 change is considered by the Senate.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

William Maher, Chair  
H. George Friedman  
Wendy Harris  
Scott Jacobs  
Calvin Lear  
Anna-Maria Marshall  
Mark Roszkowski  
Cheyenne Wu  
Sandy Jones, *Ex officio* (designee)  
Jenny Roether, *ex officio*  
Dedra Williams, Observer

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**  
**URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**  
University Statutes and Senate Procedures  
(Final; Action)

SP.15.05 Proposed Revision to *Standing Rule 11.B* – Election of a Senate Executive Committee Member from the Committee on the University Senates Conference

**BACKGROUND**

The revision proposed below is intended to allow electronic or paper ballots for the election of a Senate Executive Committee Member from the Committee on the University Senates Conference.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revision to *Standing Rule 11.B*. Text to be added is underscored and text to be deleted is indicated by ~~strikeout~~ (e.g., ~~sample text for deletion~~).

**PROPOSED REVISION TO *STANDING RULE 11.B***

**Election of a Senate Executive Committee Member from the Committee on the University Senates Conference**

- 1 At its organizational meeting, each new Senate shall elect one member of the Committee on the  
2 University Senates Conference to serve on the Senate Executive Committee, as provided in  
3 *Bylaws* D 1 (b) and D 20 (a). In the event of a vacancy in this office, the Senate shall elect a  
4 replacement. Unless the Senate on a particular occasion shall determine otherwise, the following  
5 procedure shall be used:
- 6 • A. The nominees shall be those members of the Committee who consent to serve if  
7 elected.
  - 8 • B. The election shall be conducted by ~~paper~~ ballot.
  - 9 • C. A majority of the votes cast shall be required to elect on the first ballot.
  - 10 • D. If no one is elected on the first ballot, a run-off election shall be held between the two  
11 candidates who received the highest numbers of votes on the first ballot. In the event of a

- 12 tie for the highest or second highest number of votes, the run-off ballot shall include all  
13 of those who are tied.
- 14 • E. A plurality of the votes cast shall be required to elect on the second ballot.

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University Statutes and Senate Procedures  
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SP.15.12 Proposed Revisions to the *Bylaws*, Part D.18 – Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures

**BACKGROUND**

The parliamentarians are selected to advise the presiding officer of the Senate. The current language allows only members of the faculty electorate to be appointed and serve in this capacity. In recent years there has been a dwindling number of faculty available for this assignment. Allowing other members of the Senate electorate to serve as parliamentarians will increase the number of individuals available to serve which in turn will help the Senate operate smoothly.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revisions to the *Bylaws*, Part D.18. Text to be added is underscored and text to be deleted is indicated by ~~strikeout~~ (e.g., ~~sample text for deletion~~).

**PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE BYLAWS, PART D.18**

- 1 18. Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures  
2  
3 (a) Duties  
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5 The Committee shall:  
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7 1. Review the form of proposed amendments to the University Statutes, to the General  
8 Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure, and to the Senate  
9 Constitution and Bylaws, and assure that substantive review of such proposals is made  
10 by the other appropriate Senate committees;  
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12 2. Regularly review Senate procedures and make appropriate recommendations to the  
13 Senate;  
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15 3. Review interpretations of the Statutes made by the Chancellor or the President of the  
16 University and advise the Senate on any need for revisions to the Statutes that may be  
17 necessary as a result of these interpretations;  
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19 4. Provide legislative history and commentary on specific sections of the Statutes in  
20 response to requests from the Senate Executive Committee or from the Senate's  
21 constituency;

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5. Appoint at least two parliamentarians, who shall be members of the ~~faculty~~ Senate electorate, to advise the presiding officer at Senate meetings on matters of parliamentary procedure; and
6. Supervise and conduct all nominations and elections of senators, including: determination of faculty voting units and of student election units; allocation of senatorial seats among faculty voting units and among student election units; ruling on questions of eligibility; generally ensuring that nominations and elections are conducted in accordance with rules and procedures that it shall devise; and certifying election results.

(b) Membership

The Committee shall consist of:

1. Five faculty members,
2. One academic professional member,
3. Two students,
4. One designee of the Chancellor (ex officio), and
5. The Clerk of the Senate or the Clerk’s designee (ex officio).

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