

Board Meeting  
July 19, 2012

AMEND THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE  
*CONSTITUTION*, URBANA

**Action:** Amend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate *Constitution*

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

At the request of the Urbana-Champaign Senate, the Vice President, University of Illinois, and Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign recommends revisions to its Senate *Constitution*, pursuant to University of Illinois *Statutes*, Article II, Section 1.a (“a constitution and any amendments thereto shall take effect upon adoption by the senate concerned and approved thereof by the Board of Trustees”). Amendments to the Urbana-Champaign Senate *Constitution* were approved by action of the Senate on March 28, 2011, and April 25, 2011, respectively, to authorize alternative procedures for the election of faculty senators, and to clarify that student senators’ terms commence at the beginning of the next academic year.

Proposed revisions to the Senate *Constitution* are noted in the attached document. Text to be deleted is in [square brackets] and text to be added is underscored. (A copy of the proposed changes is filed with the Secretary of the Board of Trustees for record.)

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 proposed changes to the Senate *Constitution* were reported to the University Senates Conference for record.

The President of the University concurs.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

University Statutes and Senate Procedures  
(Second Reading;Action)

SP.11.05 Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article II, Section 6 – Nominating Procedures

**BACKGROUND**

The *Senate Constitution* provides for a two-step process for the election of faculty senators. There is first a nominating ballot, intended to determine those faculty members of the voting unit (usually a department) who are interested in running for the Senate, and to reduce their number to not more than twice the number of seats to be filled in the election. There is then a final ballot in which the voting members of the unit elect their representatives.

The *Constitution* specifies that the nominating ballot shall contain "the names of all those eligible to vote in the unit." The experience of some units has been that various members of the faculty who are not interested in running or serving in the Senate nevertheless neglect to inform their colleagues, and thereby sometimes get elected. So some units have formed the practice of first asking all eligible voters in the unit to indicate whether they are willing to serve if elected, and then including in the nominating ballot only those who have affirmed their willingness. (The USSP Committee refers to this as an "opt-in" procedure.)

Until recently, the *Senate Election Rules* required the nominating ballots to include all those eligible to serve. However, they provided for those unit members who were "not available for election" for any reason to so notify the department office, and thus presumably be omitted from the nominating ballot. (USSP refers to this as an "opt-out" procedure.)

At the Senate meeting of October 4, 2010, the Senate adopted SP.10.08, amending the *Senate Election Rules* to provide that:

A unit may choose to prepare a nominating ballot that either:

- (1.) contains the names of all members of the faculty except those who are unwilling to serve or
- (2.) contains the names of the members of the faculty who have expressed a willingness to serve.

I.e., a unit may adopt either an opt-in or an opt-out procedure. (This is what many departments have been doing for some years.)

However, it was pointed out at that Senate meeting that the *Constitution* does not

authorize an opt-in procedure. (It is not clear that it even authorizes an opt-out procedure.)

USSP now proposes that the Senate amend the *Constitution* to clearly authorize both of these alternatives.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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

### PROPOSED REVISION TO THE *CONSTITUTION*, ARTICLE II, SECTION 6

- 1           6. Each faculty voting unit shall provide to its faculty electorate a nominating  
2           ballot [containing the names of all those eligible to vote in the unit] that either  
3           contains the names of all those faculty who are eligible to vote in the unit  
4           except those who are unwilling to serve, or contains the names of all those  
5           faculty who are eligible to vote in the unit who have expressed a willingness to  
6           serve. Each member of the unit's faculty electorate shall be entitled to cast one  
7           nominating vote for each open senatorial position apportioned to the unit; there  
8           shall be no cumulative voting. The voting unit shall then prepare an election  
9           ballot containing the names of those who received the highest number of  
10          nominating votes and who are willing to serve. The number of names on the  
11          election ballot shall equal twice the number of those to be elected or all of  
12          those nominated, if the number of those nominated is less than twice the  
13          number to be elected. The nominees receiving the highest numbers of votes  
14          shall be deemed elected.  
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UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES  
William Maher, Chair  
H. George Friedman  
Karen Hogenboom  
Christopher Kunzweiler  
Melissa Madsen  
Anna-Maria Marshall  
Alec Meyerholz  
Kristine Campbell, *Observer*  
Robert C. Damrau, *Ex officio*  
Sandy Jones, *Ex officio (designee)*

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

University Statutes and Senate Procedures  
(Second Reading; Action)

SP.11.10 Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article IV, Section 5 – Student  
Senators Terms of Office

**BACKGROUND**

The *Senate Constitution* is silent about the commencement of the terms of student senators. Similar provisions for faculty and Other Academic Staff specify that senate terms commence at the beginning of the next academic year. Commensurate with standing practice, this proposal would synchronize the beginning of the terms of all three electorates of the Senate.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revisions to the *Constitution*. Text to be added is underscored.

**PROPOSED REVISION TO THE *CONSTITUTION*, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 5**

- 1           5. The terms of senators elected from the student electorate shall be one year,  
2           commencing at the beginning of the next academic year, with a maximum of  
3           six consecutive terms. Unless the Senate provides otherwise, special elections  
4           shall not be held to fill vacancies.  
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