

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures
(Final; Action)

SP.18.09 Proposed Revision to the *Constitution*, Article III, Section 3 – to expand representation of Academic Professionals from seven to ten Senate seats

BACKGROUND

Academic Professionals on the Urbana campus are organized into eleven districts, each with two elected representatives to the Council of Academic Professionals (CAP). Currently, seven of those eleven districts elect a single Academic Professional (AP) to serve on the Senate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, while four are expressly excluded from eligibility.

As early as 1974, the Senate has been asked to consider including Academic Professionals as part of the Senate Electorate, but action did not come until after the 6th Senate Review Commission Final Report (<http://www.senate.illinois.edu/xsr0701.asp>). It noted that although Academic Professionals had been members of Senate Committees for several years, they did not have representation in the Senate, and it recommended that ten AP seats – one for each district after excluding the University Administration district – be established in the Senate, noting:

Given the increasing role that academic professionals play in delivering instruction and participating in the academic mission of the University, we recommend that they be given voting representation in the Senate. Current CAP practice is to divide the campus into ten districts of roughly equal size and elect their members by district. We recommend that the number of academic professional senators added be ten to conform with this practice.

After considerable discussion from 2007 to 2009, the Senate approved a constitutional amendment in November 2009 to establish Article III, which is now titled “Academic Professional Representation”. However, because of concerns that had arisen in committee and Senate debate, representation was limited to those seven districts then perceived as more directly connected to the teaching and research mission of the university.

More recently, the 7th Senate Review Commission (<http://www.senate.illinois.edu/xsr1501.pdf>) reiterated the earlier recommendation for ten seats:

The recent inclusion of Academic Professionals in the Senate has been a very positive development. However, currently only seven of the 11 campus Academic Professional districts are represented with one Senator each. The Commission recommends an increase in the number of Academic Professional (AP) senate seats from seven to ten so as to include one

elected AP from each district with the exception of the district comprising the University Administration.

The districts which had been excluded in 2009, and which are now being recommended for inclusion, are Districts 4, 7, and 10. The main units in each, drawn from the current CAP organization (<http://cap.illinois.edu/your-%20representatives/districts/>), are identified in parentheses in the list below:

- **District 4** (Graduate College, Center for Advanced Study, Survey Research Laboratory, and various Vice-Chancellor Research programs)
- **District 7** (Applied Health Sciences, Auxiliary Units, Intercollegiate Athletics, and Student Affairs)
- **District 10** (Carle Illinois COM administration, Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, Chancellor programs, Center for Advising and Academic Services, Energy Services, Medicine at UIUC, Institutional Advancement, various Provost academic programs, School of Information Sciences, and several services)

Following CAP's 2018 redistricting, each of these districts includes a combination of staff in administrative, research, and teaching roles. District 1 (University Administration) still remains distinct from the remaining ten AP districts and is not being recommended for inclusion in the Senate electorate.

Many Academic Professionals from units not currently represented in the Senate teach credit-bearing courses, advise undergraduate and graduate students, train undergraduate and graduate students in paraprofessional capacities, contribute to academic and research programs, and conduct assessment and research presented at regional and national conferences and in disciplinary journals.

At present, eligibility for the Senate Electorate is determined for each Academic Professional by their unit executive officer (UEO) following Article III, Section 1 of the *Constitution*, which provides:

The academic professional electorate is composed of those members of the academic professional staff who are engaged in and responsible for the educational function of the University; ordinarily this will involve teaching and research. Specifically, the academic professional electorate shall consist of all persons of the campus non-visiting academic staff who have a full-time appointment, are paid by the University, are not candidates for a degree from this University, and who are members of the academic staff as defined in the *University Statutes*, Article II, Section 5, and satisfy the teaching or research criteria established by the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials and approved by the Senate.

Further, the *Senate Election Rules for the Academic Professional Electorate*, in "Section 2.2 Process for Determining Eligibility to Vote" describes a protocol by which Unit Executive Officers (UEOs) are provided a list of Academic Professionals in their unit each election cycle. UEOs are asked to

confirm the Senate Electorate eligibility of each Academic Professional in the relevant unit, following the criteria outlined in the *Constitution*.

This proposed change to the *Constitution* would implement the recommendation of the Seventh Senate Review Commission. Further, it is congruent with CAP's realignment plan that is being implemented, while maintaining the status quo with respect to the continued exclusion of Academic Professionals within District 1 (University Administration). Finally, this proposal removes a redundant and overly-restrictive sentence.

RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revisions to the *Constitution*, Article III, Section 3. Text to be added is underscored and text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION ARTICLE III, SECTION 3

1 ARTICLE III. ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

2 **Section 3.** Elections shall be held on the basis of ~~seven~~ ten voting units each with one seat.
3 ~~These voting units are made up of academic units or the University of Illinois Extension or the~~
4 ~~Prairie Research Institute.~~ These election units shall be as nearly equal in size as is practicable
5 and shall be the same as the voting units for the relevant Council of Academic Professionals
6 election districts excluding the district that is comprised of the university system
7 administration.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

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