**SP.20.25**

February 6, 2023

**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate**

Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures

(Final; Action)

SP.20.25 Proposed Revision to the Senate *Constitution,* Article VI, Providing for Routine and Emergency Electronic Participation in Meetings of the Senate and its Committees

**Background**

Both the Illinois Open Meetings Act and our governing parliamentary authority, *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, require that for electronic participation in meetings, the governing documents of the Senate must make specific provisions for such participation. As the coronavirus emergency has shown us, the Senate and its committees need rules for electronic participation in their meetings.

**Recommendation**

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends the approval of the following revisions to the *Constitution*. Text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~ and text to be added is underlined. Adoption of amendments to the *Constitution* requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

**revision to the Senate *Constitution*,Article VI**

**Section 6.** A senator must be present at a Senate meeting to vote; no senator may vote by proxy or absentee ballot. The *Bylaws* may provide for electronic participation in meetings of the Senate and its committees.

New Section 8 [renumber current Sections 8-12 to be 9-13]

**Section 8.** The *Bylaws* shall provide for procedures for the operation of the Senate in the event of an emergency or disaster declaration related to public health concerns by the Governor of the State of Illinois or the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health. These procedures may include provisions for electronic meetings of the Senate and its committees, and special authority for the Senate Executive Committee.

University Statutes and Senate Procedures

Shawn Gilmore, Chair

David Dalpiaz

H. George Friedman

Michael Grossman

Kyle Johnson

Rob Klein

William Maher

Kelli Trei

Jessica Mette, *ex officio*

Sharon Reynolds, *ex officio*

Jenny Roether, *ex officio*