

# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Urbana-Champaign • Chicago • Springfield

University Senates Conference  
378 Henry Administration Building, MC-348  
506 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

May 29, 2015

President Timothy Killeen  
364 Henry Administration Building  
MC 346

Re: Proposed revisions to the *Statutes* and the *General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure* (USC ST-77/GR-46)

Dear President Killeen,

A process of revising the *Statutes* and the *General Rules* began in August 2012 when the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee of the Board of Trustees noted the need for an overall review of both documents, which had not been done in several decades. The Board's aim was to resolve ambiguities and to bring the governing documents up to date with current practice. An ad hoc committee was formed to carry out the review and to propose revisions, which included compiling updates from a number of university offices, including HR. That committee finished its work and the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee formally transmitted the revised documents to the University Senates Conference on October 6, 2014.

On December 22, 2014, the University Senates Conference transmitted to President Easter a set of revisions to the *General Rules* that were supported by the Conference. Revisions to the *General Rules* do not have to be reviewed by the senates with the exception of Article III, which deals with intellectual property issues. Since December, all three senates have approved the proposed revisions to Article III of the *General Rules* along with a recommendation of the USC Statutes and Governance Committee to move this section to the *Statutes*.

At the May 26 USC meeting, the Conference approved sending to you the proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, which have been reviewed and approved by all three senates. USC reconciled language where there were minor differences. For both documents there is a track-changes version and a clean version enclosed.

These are lengthy and complex documents and the revision process took a long time. We believe that this process has not only updated content and brought it in line with current practices, but clarified sections that have sometimes produced confusion and conflicting interpretations.

President Timothy Killeen  
May 29, 2015  
Page 2

In addition, there are two separate proposed amendments to the *Statutes*: ST-72 (revisions to the section on Academic Freedom) and ST-79 (to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the *Statutes*). Because these items were generated by a different process from the overall review of the *Statutes*, they were transmitted separately and have not been folded into the overall set of statutory changes. However, we assume that you and the Board will want to consider all of these revisions at the same time.

The University Senates Conference requests that you transmit the enclosed proposed revisions to the *Statutes* and *General Rules* to the Board of Trustees with a recommendation for approval.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Chambers, Chair  
University Senates Conference



Nicholas C. Burbules, Chair  
USC Statutes and Governance Committee

Enclosures

cc: Roy Campbell  
Michael Devocelle  
Elizabeth Dooley  
Susan Kies  
Brian Moore  
Kathy Novak  
Christophe Pierre  
Jenny Roether  
Catherine Vincent  
Members, University Senates Conference