

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

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University Senates Conference
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April 5, 2013

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Re: Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article XIII, Section 8 – to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the *Statutes*. (USC ST-79/OT-296)

Dear Colleagues:

The University Senate Conference approved the enclosed proposal to revise the *Statutes* at its meeting on January 17, 2013. The amended language would provide authorization for the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the *Statutes*.

The University Senates Conference has proposed revisions to the *Statutes* in the past, so there are precedents. On July 10, 2006, this body transmitted to the three senates proposed revisions to the *Statutes* (ST-67) that eliminated the language concerning term limits for USC membership. The language was approved by all three senates and enacted by the Board of Trustees on May 17, 2007. In academic year 2006, the Conference initiated items (ST-63 and ST-65) that changed the beginning of USC membership terms from September 1 to the beginning of the academic year and changed the title of USC Secretary to USC Vice Chair. Both items were approved by all three senates and enacted by the Board.

Statutory revisions proposed by the Conference have not only been to revise Article II, Section II of the *Statutes*, which defines the organization and functions of the University Senates Conference. The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs occasionally asked the Conference to draft proposed statutory revisions to be transmitted to the senates. Some specific items were: ST-30 – terms of faculty employment (which later became sanctions less than dismissal), ST-35 – changes to include the word "research" in the list of modifiers that cannot be part of a tenure or tenure-track title, ST-37 – to remove the ranks of assistant professor and instructor from the list of ranks that may be accorded indefinite tenure, ST-45 – interruption of the probationary period, ST-47 – to permit multi-year contracts for certain non-tenure-track academic staff not currently eligible for contracts longer than one year.

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This recommendation would codify a practice that has been in place. Yet even this proposal in itself does not follow the process outlined in the *Statutes*.

The Board of Trustees Office is currently engaged in a process of reviewing the *Statutes* and the *General Rules* to make editorial revisions. Any revisions will follow the normal approval process. Rather than roll this proposed change into that larger editorial process, the Conference decided at its meeting of March 27 to transmit this item to the senates separately.

Please follow the process of your respective senate to consider this proposed revision to the *Statutes* and report back.

Sincerely,



Nicholas C. Burbules, Chair
University Senates Conference

Enclosure

cc: Elizabeth Dooley
Robert Easter
Susan Kies
Brian Moore
Christophe Pierre
Jenny Roether
Members, University Senates Conference