

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

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University Senates Conference  
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November 26, 2013

Professor Roy Campbell, Chair  
UIUC Senate Executive Committee  
Dept. of Computer Science  
3122 Seibel Center MC 258

Professor Lynn Fisher, Chair  
UIS Campus Senate  
Dept. of Sociology/Anthropology  
MS UHB 3038

Professor Philip Patston, Chair  
UIC Senate Executive Committee  
Dept. of Oral Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences  
Room 558 DENT MC 838

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)

Dear Colleagues,

The UIUC Senate has approved alternate language to the proposed statutory changes that were approved by the Senates Conference on June 18 and sent to you on June 21. The UIUC Senate document, which includes background information regarding the revised language, is attached.

In the role of the Senates Conference to promote agreement, I ask that the UIC Senate review the UIUC Senate's language even though you have already approved the USC language of June 18; and that the UIS Senate also consider the UIUC Senate language in its ongoing consideration of the proposed statutory changes.

Sincerely,



Jorge Villegas, Chair  
University Senates Conference

Enclosure

cc: Elizabeth Dooley  
Brian Moore  
Jenny Roether  
Members, University Senates Conference

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATECommittee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures  
(First Reading; Information)

SP.14.06 Proposed Revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II, Section 2.b and Article XIII, Section 8 –  
to authorize the University Senates Conference to initiate revisions to the *Statutes*

**BACKGROUND**

The attached proposed revisions are presented to the Senate in response to a June 21, 2013 request from the University Senates Conference (USC) that the *University Statutes* be revised to articulate a means whereby the USC may initiate the process for amending the *Statutes*.

On occasion, the USC has sent to the campus Senates proposals for amendments to the *University Statutes*. Some of these proposals have originated from University administration. These amendments have included ST-30, which provided for sanctions less than dismissal (in *University Statutes*, Article IX, Section 6), and ST-45, on interruptions of the probationary period (which appeared in several different articles of the *Statutes*). In these cases and others, the Administration recommended amendments to the USC, which studied the proposals and then referred them to each respective Senate for consideration and debate.

Although this practice has been employed from time to time, the *Statutes* are silent about what particular process should be followed when *Statutes* proposals originate with USC. The current proposal describes the existing practice, confirming that USC may introduce amendments to the *Statutes*. It further preserves the autonomy of the respective Senates to follow their own legislative processes in considering such proposals. Specifically, it requires that all proposals for amendments to the *Statutes*, including those coming from the USC, must be referred to the respective Senates. A Senate will not be bound by the text accompanying such proposals, and may subject the proposal to amendment and adaptation, following its own procedures.

Accordingly, the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) is offering an amendment to Article XIII, Section 8 and is offering new language to Article II, Section 2.b to provide consistency with the present provisions in Article II that authorize the senates to propose amendments through the following existing language:

“Each senate may propose amendments to these *Statutes* through the University Senates Conference to the president and the Board of Trustees as provided in Article XIII, Section 8.” (Article II, Section 1.f)

For reference, USC’s June proposal (ST-79) is attached to this document as Appendix A. On examining USC’s proposal, the USSP concluded that the language could be both simplified and clarified, especially in regard to the process that should be followed in the respective campus senates. The USC proposal could be interpreted as limiting the campus Senates to



merely affirming or rejecting the amendment, with or without comments, which would be inconsistent not only with existing practice but also with the spirit of the *Statutes*.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of the following revisions to the *Statutes*, Article II, Section 2.b and Article XIII, Section 8. Text to be added is underscored and text to be deleted is indicated by ~~strikeout~~ (e.g., ~~sample text for deletion~~).

## PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE *STATUTES*, ARTICLE II, SECTION 2.B AND ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 8

### ARTICLE II. LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION

#### Section 2. University Senates Conference

##### b. *Functions.*

The University Senates Conference shall review all matters acted upon by each senate. The conference shall determine whether senate actions requiring implementation or further consideration by officials or other groups within the University have been referred to the appropriate officials or groups. The conference itself may make any original or additional referral it deems advisable, and may append its comments and recommendations. Should the conference find a matter acted upon by one of the senates to be of concern to another senate, it shall refer the matter and the action to that senate. If two or more senates have acted differently on a subject, the conference shall attempt to promote agreement or consistency. Where agreement or consistency cannot be effected within a reasonable period of time, the conference shall transmit the related actions of the senates together with its own recommendations to the appropriate officials or groups within the University and shall simultaneously notify the secretary of each senate of its action. Any senate may record and transmit its further comments to the same addressees and to the conference.

The University Senates Conference shall assist the senates to communicate with one another, with University and campus administrative officials, and with the Board of Trustees (through the president), and may develop and implement procedures to enhance such communication.

The University Senates Conference may propose amendments to these *Statutes* through the several senates as provided in Article XIII, Section 8.

### ARTICLE XIII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Section 8. Amendments

##### a. *Initiation by a Senate or by the University Senates Conference.*

(1) Each of the senates by vote of a majority of all members present and voting at a regular or special meeting may propose amendments to these *Statutes*. No final senate action shall be taken on a proposed amendment until the next meeting

32 following the one at which it was introduced. The secretary of a senate shall  
33 notify the secretary of the other senates and the secretary of the University  
34 Senates Conference of the text of a proposed amendment promptly after the  
35 meeting at which it is introduced. The proposed amendment shall be referred  
36 to the University Senates Conference for its consideration and transmission to  
37 the other senates for action; the conference may append its comments and  
38 recommendations. [continue here without paragraph break] The proposed  
39 amendment shall be placed promptly on the agenda of the other senates.

40 (2) The University Senates Conference by vote of a majority of all members present  
41 and voting at a regular or special meeting may propose amendments to these  
42 Statutes. The secretary of the conference shall notify the secretaries of the  
43 campus senates of the text of a proposed amendment promptly after the  
44 meeting at which it is introduced. The proposed amendment shall be  
45 transmitted to the senates for such action as each of them shall see fit; the  
46 conference may append its comments. The proposed amendment shall be  
47 placed promptly on the agenda of each senate.

48 (3) Each senate may act on the proposed amendment in accord with its own  
49 established procedures, including the right to accept, to modify, or to reject any  
50 proposed amendment or proposed statutory text. Final action in each senate on  
51 the proposed amendment may be taken by a majority of all members present  
52 and voting at a regular or special meeting held not earlier than the next meeting  
53 following the one at which it was introduced in that senate.

54 (4) If every senate acts affirmatively on the proposed amendment and concurs as to  
55 its text, the conference shall send the proposed amendment to the president for  
56 transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the  
57 senates of its action; the conference may append its comments. If the senates do  
58 not agree as to the proposed amendment, the conference shall endeavor to  
59 promote agreement of the senates. Where agreement cannot be effected among  
60 all the senates within a reasonable period of time, but the text of a proposed  
61 amendment has been agreed upon by all but one of the senates, the conference  
62 shall send that proposed amendment, the recommendations of the dissenting  
63 senate, and its own recommendations to the president for transmission to the  
64 Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates of its action. A  
65 senate may record and send its further comments to the president for  
66 transmission to the Board of Trustees.

67 b. *Initiation by the Board of Trustees.* The Board of Trustees may initiate proposals to  
68 amend the *Statutes*, but the board shall not finally adopt any such proposal without  
69 first seeking the advice of the president, the senates, and the University Senates  
70 Conference. Any proposal to amend the *Statutes* which is initiated by the Board of  
71 Trustees shall be transmitted through the president to the University Senates  
72 Conference and transmitted by the conference, with its recommendations, to the  
73 senates for consideration and advice. The proposed amendment shall be placed  
74 promptly on the agenda of each of the senates. If the senates do not agree in their



75 advice concerning the proposed amendment, the conference shall endeavor to  
76 promote agreement; where agreement cannot be achieved within a reasonable  
77 period of time, the conference shall send the advice of the senates and its own  
78 recommendations to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees and  
79 shall simultaneously notify the senates of its action. A senate may record and send  
80 its further comments to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees.

81 c. An amendment shall become effective when approved by the Board of Trustees or  
82 at such later time as the board may specify.

UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES

William Maher, Chair  
Jennifer Baldwin  
H. George Friedman  
Wendy Harris  
Scott Jacobs  
Calvin Lear  
Anna-Maria Marshall  
Mark Roszkowski  
Sandy Jones, *Ex officio (designee)*  
Jenny Roether, *Ex officio*  
Dedra Williams, *Observer*

## Appendix A

USC ST-79  
Approved 6/18/13

### PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE *STATUTES*

(Text to be deleted is in [square brackets] and text to be added is underlined.)

#### ARTICLE XIII. General Provisions

##### Section 8. Amendments

a. *Initiation by a Senate.* Each of the senates by vote of a majority of all members present and voting at a regular or special meeting may propose amendments to these *Statutes*. No final senate action shall be taken on a proposed amendment until the next meeting following the one at which it was introduced. The secretary of a senate shall notify the secretary of the other senates and the secretary of the University Senates Conference of the text of a proposed amendment promptly after the meeting at which it is introduced. The proposed amendment shall be referred to the University Senates Conference for its consideration and transmission to the other senates for action; the conference may append its comments and recommendations.

The proposed amendment shall be placed promptly on the agenda of the other senates. If every senate acts affirmatively on the proposed amendment and concurs as to its text, the conference shall send the proposed amendment to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates of its action; the conference may append its comments. If the senates do not agree as to the proposed amendment, the conference shall endeavor to promote agreement of the senates. Where agreement cannot be effected among all senates within a reasonable period of time, but the text of a proposed amendment has been agreed upon by all but one of the senates, the conference shall send that proposed amendment, the recommendations of the dissenting senate, and its own recommendations to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates of its action. A senate may record and send its further comments to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees.

b. *Initiation by the University Senates Conference.* The University Senates Conference by vote of a majority of all members present and voting at a regular or special meeting may propose amendments to these *Statutes*. The secretary of the conference shall notify the secretary of the campus senates and the secretary of the Board of Trustees of the text of a proposed amendment promptly after the meeting at which it is introduced. The proposed amendment shall be transmitted to the senates for action; the conference may append its comments.

The proposed amendment shall be placed promptly on the agenda of the senates. If every senate acts affirmatively on the proposed amendment and concurs as to its text, the conference shall send the proposed amendment to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates of its action; the conference may append its comments. If the senates do not agree as to the proposed amendment, the conference shall endeavor to promote agreement of the senates. Where agreement cannot be effected among all senates within a reasonable period of time, but the text of a proposed amendment has been agreed upon by all but one

of the senates, the conference shall send that proposed amendment, the recommendations of the dissenting senate, and its own recommendations to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates of its action. A senate may record and send its further comments to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees.

[b]c. *Initiation by the Board of Trustees.* The Board of Trustees may initiate proposals to amend the *Statutes*, but the board shall not finally adopt any such proposal without first seeking the advice of the president, the senates, and the University Senates Conference. Any proposal to amend the *Statutes* which is initiated by the Board of Trustees shall be transmitted through the president to the University Senates Conference and transmitted by the conference, with its recommendations, to the senates for consideration and advice. The proposed amendment shall be placed promptly on the agenda of each of the senates. If the senates do not agree in their advice concerning the proposed amendment, the conference shall endeavor to promote agreement; where agreement cannot be achieved within a reasonable period of time, the conference shall send the advice of the senates and its own recommendations to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees and shall simultaneously notify the senates of its action. A senate may record and send its further comments to the president for transmission to the Board of Trustees.

[c]d. An amendment shall become effective when approved by the Board of Trustees or at such later time as the board may specify.