SP.19.14
April 27, 2020

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND SENATE PROCEDURES
(Final; Action)

SP.19.14  Proposed Revisions to the Statutes, Article III, Sections 3 and 5, and Article VI –
Dean, Director, or Campus Librarian

BACKGROUND
Currently, the Statutes provide for the annual reappointment of college deans, but do not
specify a process for the appointment of a new dean, as they do for the appointment of a new
chancellor/vice president (Article I, Section 5). The appointment of a new dean should be
treated as important as the annual reappointment, because a dean “is the agent of the college
faculty for the execution of college educational policy” (Statutes, Article III, Section 3a).

Given the importance of this initial appointment, the Senate Committee on University Statutes
and Senate Procedures recommends adding an additional layer of faculty participation in the
process. On the appointment of a new dean, a committee selected by the faculty of the college
would advise the chancellor/vice president as part of the selection process. This procedure
would strengthen shared governance and would align with the current procedure for the
appointment of a new chancellor/vice president, in which a committee is selected by the
Senate to advise the president (Statutes, Article I, Section 5).

Similar to that procedure, this proposal does not specify the composition of the search
committee or the search process, but instead provides an avenue for selected faculty from the
college to participate in the Chancellor’s search process, which typically involves other
interested parties.

These proposed changes would formalize the role of the faculty in the appointment of a new
dean, provide transparency to avoid potential conflicts of interest, promote diverse
representation, and strengthen shared governance in academic and research matters that
directly affect faculty.

Additionally, parallel language has been proposed for Article III, Section 5, which governs
schools and similar campus units, and to Article VI, which governs the Library.

RECOMMENDATION
The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures recommends approval of
the following revisions to the Statutes, Article III, Sections 3 and 5, and Article VI.

Text to be added is underscored and text to be deleted is struck through.
ARTICLE III. CAMPUSES, COLLEGES, AND SIMILAR CAMPUS UNITS

Section 3. The Dean

b. The dean shall be appointed annually by the Board of Trustees on recommendation by the chancellor/vice president and the president. On the initial appointment of a dean, the chancellor/vice president shall seek the prior advice of a committee that is selected by the faculty of the college in accordance with its bylaws. On the occasion of each recommendation for reappointment of a dean, the chancellor/vice president shall seek the prior advice of the executive committee of the college concerned. The performance of the dean shall be evaluated at least once every five years in a manner to be determined by the college faculty of the college.

Section 5. The Dean or Director of a School or Similar Campus Unit

a. In a school or similar campus unit independent of a college, the chief executive officer shall be a dean or director appointed annually by the Board of Trustees on the recommendation of the chancellor/vice president and the president. On the initial appointment of a dean or director, the chancellor/vice president shall seek the prior advice of a committee that is selected by the faculty of the unit in accordance with its bylaws. On the occasion of each recommendation for reappointment of a dean or director, the chancellor/vice president shall seek the prior advice of the executive committee of the faculty concerned. Within the school or similar campus unit, the duties of a director or a dean shall be the same as those of the dean of a college. The performance of the dean or director shall be evaluated at least once every five years in a manner to be determined by the faculty of the unit.

ARTICLE VI. THE CAMPUS LIBRARY

e. The campus librarian shall be appointed annually by the Board of Trustees on the recommendation of the chancellor/vice president with the concurrence of the President of the University. On the initial appointment of a campus librarian, the chancellor/vice president shall
seek the prior advice of a committee that is selected by the faculty of the campus library in
accordance with its bylaws. On the occasion of each such appointment reappointment of a
campus librarian, the chancellor/vice president shall seek the prior advice of the library
committee of the campus senate and of the library executive committee. The performance of
the campus librarian shall be evaluated at least once every five years in a manner to be
determined by the faculty of the campus library and the library committee of the campus
senate. As part of the evaluation, views shall be solicited from the library committee of the
campus senate, from other concerned faculty, and from the entire faculty of the campus
library.

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