Definition of “Academic Staff” – relevant sections of University of Illinois Statutes (available in their entirety here: http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/statutes.cfm):

ARTICLE II. LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION

Section 3. Faculty Role in Governance

a. (1) The faculty of the University and any of its units except for the Graduate College consists of those members of the academic staff with the rank or title in that unit of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor who are tenured or receiving probationary credit toward tenure, and those administrators in the direct line of responsibility for academic affairs (persons who hold the title director or dean in an academic unit, provost or equivalent officer, vice president/chancellor and president). Administrative staff members not in the direct line of responsibility for academic affairs are members of the faculty only if they also hold faculty appointments. The bylaws of any academic unit may further mandate a minimum percent faculty appointment in that unit for specified faculty privileges, such as voting privileges.

(2) The bylaws of a unit may grant specified faculty privileges to selected faculty of other units. The bylaws may also grant specified faculty privileges to members of the academic staff of the unit or of other units who are not included in subsection 1 above (i.e., neither tenured nor receiving probationary credit toward tenure), and who have the rank or title of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, instructor, or lecturer. The bylaws may also grant specified faculty privileges to members of the academic staff of the unit or of other units who have the rank or title of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, instructor, or lecturer modified by the terms "research," "adjunct," "clinical," "visiting" and/or "emeritus" (e.g., "research professor," "adjunct assistant professor," "clinical associate professor," "visiting professor"). Only academic staff with titles listed above may be extended faculty privileges. Voting on these provisions of the bylaws is limited to those named in subsection 1 above.

b. As the responsible body in the teaching, research, and scholarly activities of the University, the faculty has inherent interests and rights in academic policy and governance. Each college or other academic unit shall be governed in its internal administration by its faculty, as defined in Section 3a (1) above. Governance of each academic unit shall be based on unit bylaws established and amended by the faculty of that unit. The bylaws shall provide for the administrative organization and procedure of the unit, including the composition and tenure of executive or advisory committees. Except that they may not conflict with these Statutes, or other specific actions of the Board of Trustees, or with the bylaws of a unit which encompasses it, the details of the bylaws are left to the faculty of the unit.

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ARTICLE IX. ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFFS

c. The following ranks, and only these ranks, of the academic staff as defined in Article IX, Section 4a, are subject to the provisions of Article X, Section 1: professor, associate professor, and assistant professor. Modifying terms such as "research," "adjunct," "clinical," and "visiting" may be used in conjunction with these academic ranks (e.g., "research professor," "adjunct assistant professor," "clinical associate professor," "visiting professor"); but no appointment for an indefinite term may be made in which a modifying term is used in the academic rank. Furthermore, an appointment in which a modifier is used in the title will not count toward completion of the probationary period, as provided in Article X, Section 1, unless specially recommended by the executive officer of the unit and approved by the dean and by the vice president/chancellor or an officer authorized to act for the vice president/chancellor.

Other academic ranks recognized within the academic staff are: (1) lecturer; (2) instructor; (3) teaching associate, research associate, and clinical associate; (4) teaching assistant, research assistant, and clinical assistant.

Appropriate academic rank, with the rights and privileges pertaining thereto, may be accorded members of the administrative staff. This means that in addition to being members of the administrative staff selected administrative officers may also hold appointments with academic titles chosen from the ranks listed in the two preceding paragraphs.

Special classes of positions within the academic staff may be established to meet specialized professional or technical needs, in accordance with Article IX, Section 4a.

Section 4. Principles Governing Employment of Academic and Administrative Staffs

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a. The academic staff which conducts the educational program shall consist of the teaching, research, scientific, counseling, and extension staffs; deans and directors of colleges, schools, institutes, and similar campus units; editors, librarians, and such other members of the staff as are designated by the president and the vice presidents/chancellors.

http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/statutes.cfm#sec94