

Constitution of the Senate  
of  
The University of Illinois at Springfield

Adopted by the  
Campus Senate  
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## ARTICLE I

### THE CAMPUS SENATE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

#### Section 1. Components of the Governance System

The Campus Senate Governance System at the University of Illinois at Springfield shall consist of the following: the Campus Senate, the various committees of the Senate, and those members of the Campus Senate who serve on the University Senates Conference.

#### Section 2. Voting Electorates

The *Student Electorate* shall be composed of all persons who are enrolled as full- or part-time students in the University and who are not full-time employees. The student electorate shall be represented by the Student Senate, or its successor.

The *Faculty Electorate* shall be composed of all persons holding full-time faculty appointments who devote fifty percent or more of their time to instruction, research, and/or public service. This shall include faculty with titles such as Center Director and Research Associate but shall not include administrative titles of Dean or above.

The *Staff Electorate* shall be composed of all persons holding permanent full-time employment who are members of the University Civil Service Staff.

The *Administrative Electorate* shall be composed of all administrators holding full-time employment and faculty rank.

The *Academic Professional Electorate* shall be composed of those staff members whose positions have been designated by the President and the Chancellor as meeting specialized administrative, professional, or technical needs in accordance with Article II, Section 5 of the University of Illinois Statutes.

### **Section 3. The Campus Senate**

The Campus Senate shall consist of the elected representatives of the above named electorates. The faculty shall elect twenty senators who shall be apportioned to the Colleges and the Library based on a ratio of one senator for every fifteen full time faculty in the unit except that each College will have a minimum of two Senators and the Library will have a minimum of one senator elected by the faculty of the respective units. The remaining Senators will be elected by the faculty at large. No college shall have more than one half of the total faculty senators. Faculty Senators shall serve two-year terms, one-half being elected each year. The Students shall elect five members and three alternates. Student Senators shall serve one-year terms. The Staff, Administration and Academic Professionals shall each elect one member who shall serve a two-year term. The Provost shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member. All Vice Chancellors, Associate Vice Chancellors, Directors, Deans, and executive officers of comparable academic, administrative, and service units who are not members of the Senate shall have the privilege of the floor on matters of concern to their units when such matters are before the Senate for debate. The Campus Senate shall be the representative, deliberative, and consultative voice of the Campus Community on matters of educational policy.

Every four years, the Senate Executive Committee shall recalculate the total number of faculty senators and their apportionment and submit any recommendations for change to the Senate.

### **Section 4. Committees and Task Forces**

The Senate is empowered to appoint to Senate committees such non-senators as the Senate may determine. Such committee members shall have Senate floor privileges, including the privilege of making motions, on matters relating to the committee on which they serve, but they shall have no vote in the Senate.

In consultation with other representative bodies, such as the Student Senate (or its successor), the Campus Senate may establish committees to deal with the more general concerns of the University Community in accordance with the limitations contained in Article II, Section 1 and in the *University Statutes*. In those areas of multi-constituency concern, the Campus Senate shall ensure multi-constituency representation and establish the proper reporting procedures.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **THE GOVERNANCE PROCESS**

#### **Section 1. Establishment of Policy**

The Campus Senate shall serve as the legislative body regarding educational policy. Policies affecting the wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment of faculty and staff shall be within the purview of appropriately designated bodies. Policies affecting student activities, fees, and tuition shall be considered to be the primary interest of the Student Senate.

#### **Section 2. Mail Poll of Faculty Opinion**

At the request of the Chancellor, upon request contained in a petition signed by members of the faculty electorate as provided hereafter, or on its own initiative, the Senate shall obtain by a written mail poll the requested expression of opinion from the faculty electorate. The minimum number of valid signatures required in such a petition from the faculty electorate shall be established by the Senate in its bylaws. The formulation of the questions presented and the procedures for obtaining such an expression of opinion shall be determined in each instance by the Senate. In all cases in which such poll is required, the Senate shall arrange for the poll to be conducted promptly upon receipt of the request. The results of any such poll of the faculty electorate shall be made public promptly.

#### **Section 3. Elections**

Representatives of each electorate of the Campus Senate shall establish policy for the election of its members. Such policies shall be implemented and a yearly election calendar developed by the Campus Senate.

#### **Section 4. Meetings**

All meetings within the Campus Senate Governance System shall be open, in accordance with the statutes of the State of Illinois. The Senate shall establish and publish its meeting schedule.

#### **Section 5. Bylaws**

For the purpose of implementing the provisions of this *Constitution* and to provide for the internal organization of the Senate, the Senate shall enact such bylaws, as it deems necessary and proper, not inconsistent with this *Constitution*. Bylaws of the Senate shall be adopted, amended, or repealed only upon two-thirds vote of the senators present and voting at a Senate meeting, provided due notice of such proposed action has been given. Unless otherwise provided therein, bylaws or amendments thereto shall be effective immediately upon adoption. (Until they are revised, the Bylaws of the former Sangamon State University Faculty Senate shall serve as the Bylaws of the Campus Senate.)

#### **Section 6. Records**

The Campus Senate and committees of the Governance System (including those members of the Campus Senate who serve on the University Senates Conference) shall be required to keep records of their meetings, reports, correspondence, and other working papers related to their work. The Campus Senate shall receive, upon request, periodic reports from all committees accountable to it. The Campus Archivist shall act as historian of the Governance System and shall assist in the maintenance of its records.

#### **Section 7. Administrative Assistance and Budgetary Support**

The Campus Administration shall provide for facilities, staff, and financial support for the operation of the Campus Senate. Expenditures of funds allocated to the Governance System shall be subject to the approval of the Campus Senate and the Campus Administration.

### **Section 8. Selection of the Chancellor of the Campus**

When a vacancy shall be declared to exist, the Campus Senate shall select a committee which shall be representative of the campus community to advise the President on the appointment of a new chancellor.

### **Section 9. Recommendation of Degree Candidates**

As permitted by the *University Statutes*, the Senate delegates to the faculties of the several schools and other independent academic units the recommendation of candidates for earned degrees, diplomas, and certificates to be conferred by the President under the authority of the Board of Trustees. A school may further delegate this authority to the faculties of its internal units.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **AMENDMENT AND REVISION**

#### **Section 1. Amendment**

An amendment to this Constitution may be proposed in writing at any regular meeting of the Campus Senate. The vote on the amendment must be at a regular meeting of the Campus Senate after at least a two-week notification to members of the Senate and the academic community. An affirmative vote by two-thirds of the members of the Campus Senate present and voting is required for adoption. After adoption of a constitutional amendment by the Senate, the Senate shall transmit the amendment to the Board of Trustees for appropriate action, in accordance with the *University Statutes*.

## **Section 2. Periodic Review**

Periodically the Senate shall provide for a comprehensive review of its size, organization, structure, and operation by a commission composed of members of the faculty, staff, academic professional and student electorates, and administrative officials. Such commission shall report its findings and make recommendations. The report of the commission shall be made public and distributed as all other reports of the Senate.