

October 7, 2025

Sent Via Email

Ninth Senate Review Commission

Faculty Members

Nolan Miller, Finance, *Chair*
Jenny Amos, Bioengineering
Michael Grossman, Animal Sciences
Kirsten Pullen, Theater
Carol Symes, History
Joyce Tolliver, Spanish and Portuguese

Academic Professional Members

Eric Kurt, University Library
Beth Meschewski, Illinois Sustainable Technology
Center

Student Members

Hunter Farnham, Undergraduate in Computer
Science + Economics
Jess Williams, Graduate in Computer Science

Administrative Member

Nizam Arain, Office for Access and Equity

Designated Member

Jenny Roether, Clerk of the Senate

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Ninth Senate Review Commission (SR9). Your willingness to contribute your time and expertise is greatly appreciated.

Article VI, Section 10 of the Senate *Constitution* calls for the Senate to conduct, at least once every seven years, “a comprehensive review of its size, organization, structure, and operation by a commission composed of members from each electorate, and the administration. Such commission shall report its findings and make recommendations to the Senate Executive Committee, as prescribed in the *Bylaws*. The report of the commission shall be made public and distributed as a report for information to the Senate.” The Senate Executive Committee has recommended, and the Senate has approved, the establishment of SR9 to carry out that responsibility.

Specifically, SR9 is charged to:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of the current honorary degree award criteria and process and make recommendations for improvement.
 - a. Prepare and submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the SEC by **January 23, 2026** for review at its February 2, 2026 meeting.
2. Conduct a comprehensive review of the Senate’s overall size, composition, representation, procedures, and committee structure. Specifically, SEC suggests SR9:

- a. Assess alignment with shared governance principles and practices, university and system level policies, and the academic mission of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- b. Evaluate the composition and representation of the Senate, standing committees, and representation of the Senate within other bodies such as USC and FAC.
- c. Suggest ways to improve the public image of the Senate.
- d. Recommend changes to strengthen the effectiveness of the Senate and the adequacy of its current support and resources.
- e. Solicit input from current and past Senate members, Senate committees, administration, the student government, and other key stakeholders.
- f. Create benchmarks through comparison with peer institutions and use of governance best practices from professional and academic associations.
- g. Prepare and submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the SEC by **August 1, 2026**.

In carrying out this work, SR9 should be guided by the principles of shared governance, transparency, and inclusivity. Corazon Johnson from the Office of the Senate will provide staff support and access to Senate records.

We are grateful for your service in this important endeavor and look forward to your report, which will help strengthen the Senate and enhance its effectiveness in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Angela Lyons, Chair
Senate Executive Committee

Cc: Corazon Johnson

