

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
232 ENGLISH BUILDING AND ZOOM
MINUTES

Present: Chair Angela Lyons, Vice-Chair Shawn Gilmore, David Dalpiaz, Hunter Farnham, David Forsyth, Joanne Kaczmarek, Anjali Kumar, Eric Kurt, Ralph Mathisen, Gay Miller, Nolan Miller, James Quisenberry, Chaya Sandler (Zoom), Peter Silhan, John Weible
Ex officio: William Bernhard (for C. Isbell), Rurik Tywoniw (Presiding Officer of the Senate)

Absent: Patrick Holt, Yvette Johnson-Walker, Charles Roseman, Jessica Williams

Guests: Gio Guerra-Peréz (Interim Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) (Zoom), Stephanie Henry (Communications Associate, Strategic Communications and Marketing), Robin Kaler (Associate Chancellor for Strategic Communications and Marketing), William Maher (Parliamentarian) (Zoom), Macy Medendorp (Reporter, The Daily Illini), (Ryan Pearlman (Senior News Reporter, The Daily Illini), Patrick Wade (Director of Executive Communications and Issues Management, Strategic Communications and Marketing)

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:11 pm with Chair Lyons presiding.

2. APPROVAL OF REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Remote participation was approved without objection.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests received.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 25, 2025 meeting were approved as distributed.

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Lyons thanked everyone that submitted nominations for the Ninth Senate Review Commission (SR9) and clarified the purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Honorary Degree Awards Process. The Ad Hoc Honorary Degrees Committee will allow for a more in-depth review of the honorary degree process and how it can be improved while not becoming the focus of SR9.

6. CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

William Bernhard, Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, shared the following remarks on behalf of Chancellor Isbell.

The Birmingham-Illinois Partnership for Discovery, Engagement, and Education (BRIDGE) is an alliance between the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom which celebrated its 10th anniversary in April 2024. The partnership supports areas such as joint research and promoting educational exchange. The Chancellor is engaging with leaders to promote the great work being done at both universities.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a lawsuit against the state of Illinois, Governor J.B. Pritzker, the Illinois Attorney General, and the boards of trustees for state universities. The lawsuit challenges Illinois laws granting in-state tuition and financial aid to undocumented students. The Office of University Counsel is reviewing this case in collaboration with the other defendants to determine how to proceed. Bernhard noted the primary concern regarding the DOJ suit is ensuring students continue to have the opportunity to attend Illinois. The potential number of students impacted is not currently available.

Today is the tenth day of classes which is when official enrollment numbers are recorded. The size of the first-year class and total enrollment appears consistent with last year's enrollment numbers. The first-year class is close to or could break last year's record. Preliminary international student enrollment data shows similar enrollment from previous years. Challenges with obtaining visas and associated approvals continue and are consistent with the previous recent years. There is still a strong demand for an Illinois degree. The University continues to be thoughtful on how to strategically plan for growing enrollment, ensuring faculty have access to resources to serve those students.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a) SC.26.03, Establish the Ninth Senate Review Commission (SR9)

Chair Lyons lead the discussion on faculty members to nominate for the chair position. Sandler shared that the Senate Committee on Committees (CC) nominated Nolan Miller and Carol Symes for the chair position. At the conclusion of the discussion, SEC members agreed on the nomination of Joanne Kaczmarek, who consented during the meeting, and Linda Moorehouse for the chair position. Lyons will contact Moorehouse for consent to serve if elected. SEC also agreed to nominate William Maher, who consented during the meeting, if Moorehouse declines.

The SEC next discussed priority areas for SR9 to consider and to be included in the charge letter. SEC came to the consensus that the charge letter should include a general, less specific list of topics to consider and should include a statement that SR9 must consult with other groups and stakeholders. A draft of the charge letter will be shared prior to the next meeting. General topics included the size and composition of the Senate; review of standing committees, including possible consolidation, and bodies

with Senate representation; engagement with the student government body; and the resolution submission process.

b) SC.26.04, Establish the Ad Hoc Committee on the Honorary Degree Awards Process

Sandler shared the criteria CC used in the selection of nominees for this proposed committee which included balancing college representation.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Set the Agenda for the September 15, 2025 Senate Meeting

The agenda was set as amended.

9. UPDATES

a) Chairs of Standing Committees of the Senate

- University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP): Dalpiaz
The proposed *Statutes* revisions coded as ST-90 and ST-91 were proposed by the UIC Senate. ST-90 proposes widening who is eligible for sabbatical and ST-91 proposes increasing faculty voting rights. The textual changes are simple, but the policy implications are much larger. Robust and extensive input is needed.
- Educational Policy (EP): N. Miller
EP received the proposal to decrease the language other than English (LOTE) requirement for online degree programs from 3 semesters to 2 semesters. The Council of Deans will be consulted for feedback with the expectation that the proposal will be ready for the October Senate meeting.
- Library (LB): Mathisen
Initially, financial support was insufficient to advance plans for converting the Undergraduate Library into a facility for Special Collections. The funding shortfall has been addressed, and construction is now moving forward.
- Information Technology (IT): Quisenberry
IT conducted a review of current initiatives. Items under consideration include the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) statement on governance regarding AI in higher education and faculty involvement, as well as obtaining feedback from Cybersecurity.

b) Administrative Updates

No new update.

c) Other

No new update.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Jenny Roether
Clerk of the Senate