

**AGENDA**  
UIL Standing Committee on Academics  
June 16, 2020

A meeting of the UIL Standing Committee on Academics will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 via teleconference beginning at the time indicated below, according to the following agenda, unless otherwise announced by the Chair.

In accordance with the waiver to certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act issued by Governor Greg Abbott on March 16, 2020, and in the interest of avoiding large gatherings and promoting social distancing during this pandemic, one or more members may participate by teleconference or videoconference.

Please note that there is no physical location for this meeting in order to ensure safe social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is only accessible via live stream at <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/legislative-council>.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Individual Responsible</b>
Tuesday, June 16 9:00 a.m.	<u>Business Meeting</u> A. Quorum Call B. Adoption of Meeting Rules C. Adoption of Agenda D. Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2019 E. Statement of Committee Purpose	Keith Bryant, Chair

**Purpose**

The purpose of this committee is to consider proposals for changes in the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* that have academics related aspects in order to report recommendations to the Legislative Council on June 17, 2020.

The meeting is a business meeting of the committee and not a public hearing. Thus, presentations may not be made by outside groups or individuals during this meeting. If one of the committee members needs clarification, questions may be asked of those in attendance. The UIL Director or a designated member of the UIL staff and Legislative Council members not assigned to this committee shall be recognized to speak on any issue.

**F. Old Business**

1. Review of Previously Considered Proposals
  - a-b. Proposals for Computer Applications
    - c. A proposal to combine A+ Science I and II tests for grades 6-8
    - d. A proposal to add Robotics Education & Competition (REC) to UIL Robotics competition
  - e-f. Proposals for One-Act Play
    - g. A proposal to officially recognize a Top Technician and Top Crew Team (as in other Academic events) at all levels of the One-Act Play contest

**G. New Business**

1. Written Proposals from the Public
  - a-c. Proposals to add chess for high school
    - d. A proposal to adjust the conflict of interest rule for adjudicators of OAP
2. Proposals Referred to the Academic Committee from Public Hearing
3. Staff Proposals
  - a. A proposal to add points for Top Presiding Officer in State Congress

**H. Announcements**

**I. Adjournment**

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

A COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MAY GO INTO CLOSED (EXECUTIVE) SESSION ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA WHERE AUTHORIZED BY THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 551.

1. Pursuant to Government Code Section 551.071, Committee members may consult with their attorney concerning pending or contemplated litigation, and all matters identified in the agenda where the Committee members seek the advice of their attorney as privileged communications under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas.
2. Action, if any, in Open Session on items discussed in the Executive Session.

Meetings of the University Interscholastic League Legislative Council are open to the public except for any posted executive session held in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Persons interested in a Council meeting and desiring communication or other special accommodations should contact the UIL Office at least two working days prior to the meeting. The UIL Office is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays and contact information follows: phone (512) 471-5883; fax (512) 471-5908; email [policy@uiltexas.org](mailto:policy@uiltexas.org); 1701 Manor Road, Austin, Texas 78722.

Suggest a UIL Rule Change [#1033]

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 1:21 PM

**Will you attend the Legislative Council Meeting to make this proposal in person?**

No

**This rule change is for:**

Academics

**Suggested Rule Change**

I am writing to ask for the consideration for you to evaluate the Computer Applications UIL test.

**Why do you want this rule changed?**

This year is the last year for Microsoft Office 2010. We are a small school, and we haven't used Microsoft in years. To be honest, it is too expensive for us. We utilize the Google Suite. I think if you ask, you would find that most schools use something besides Microsoft Office. It seems most colleges, businesses, and schools are using cloud based programs. We have students enrolled in dual credit classes at a local junior college, and the college uses Google.

We like the UIL competition, and we would not like to be able to compete due to financial constraints. So, please re-evaluate the Computer Application contest for next year.

**Name**

Traci Pustejovsky

Suggest a UIL Rule Change [#1063]

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 2:52 PM

**Will you attend the Legislative Council Meeting to make this proposal in person?** Yes

**This rule change is for:** Academics

**Suggested Rule Change**

Award Computer Applications team points but do not allow the team to advance.

**Why do you want this rule changed?**

By allowing team points, more students will be recognized and awarded. Students will also become more competitive as more points could boost the overall team scores at District meets  
This rule will mirror the Journalism and Speech rule in which individuals are awarded as are team members; however, teams will not advance to the regional meet.

**Name** Pam McClellan

Suggest a UIL Rule Change [#1071]

Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 12:35 PM

**Will you attend the Legislative Council Meeting to make this proposal in person?**

Yes

**This rule change is for:**

Academics

**Suggested Rule Change**

I propose that UIL Science I and Science II tests be combined into one Science test for grades 6th – 8th for the Junior High UIL Academic Contests.

**Why do you want this rule changed?**

- 1) No other Junior High/Middle School test is written to one specific grade level except for Science.
- 2) Students who take Science I as 6th graders are not able to be monitored by school districts and usually end up taking Science I again as a 7th grader – which is against the rules but I believe it happens quite often.
- 3) Every time the TEKS change for 7th or 8th grades, not only do tests have to be rewritten, but it also makes earlier practice tests invalid because they were written for different TEKS.
- 4) When TEKS are changed, they are normally only shifted to a different grade level. Thus, if the tests were general tests for 6th – 8th graders, nothing would have to be rewritten or changed as the TEKS change AND all test materials from years previous to the TEKS change would remain valid practice material.
- 5) Students would benefit because 6th and 7th graders would be exposed to 8th grade materials at a younger age. 8th graders would have great review of prior learning as well.
- 6) It would be a win-win for both UIL and our 6th – 8th grade students!

**Name**

Michelle Randall

**Proposed Amendment to the  
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

***A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Recommendation***

This amendment to Section 1466, *Science I and II*, would change the event structure of A+ Science from the current Science I and Science II contest for grades 7 and 8 to a combined A+ Science contest that would be open to students in grades 6-8.

***B. Factual and Policy Justifications***

Currently, students in grades 7 take the Science I test and grade 8 the Science II test. Moving to one A+ Science event would align the structure with the A+ Calculator Applications and A+ Mathematics contests, correlate the test more closely to the high school Science contest, and would remove barriers to participation that exist with the current Science I and II format.

***C. Proposed Recommendation***

Section 1466 of the *UIL Constitution & Contest Rules* will be amended to modify the structure of the A+ Science event. Changes will replace the current Science I and Science II format that limits students to one year of participation in each level with a combined A+ Science contest structure that will be open to any eligible student in grades 6-8. As with other A+ events, districts will have the option of a combined contest division or separate grade level divisions. (Contest format details will be finalized in the coming months and completed language will be provided for committee review in October 2020.)

***D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools***

This proposed amendment should have minimal fiscal impact on member schools.

***E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date***

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2021.

## PROPOSALS FROM PUBLIC HEARING

Sunday, October 20, 2019

Andy Schaffs, Robotics Education & Competition Operations

Lee Branson, Pine Tree ISD

<b>This rule change is for:</b>	Academics
<b>Suggested Rule Change</b> The possible inclusion of REC in robotics.	
<b>Why do you want this rule changed?</b> The current UIL robotics organizations are less accessible to rural schools.	
<b>Name</b>	Lee Branson

## UIL ONE-ACT PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS

We, the parents of Harlingen High School South's UIL One Act Play Production Team, recommend that the following changes be made to the policies and procedures of the UIL One-Act Play Contest in order to ensure a more fair and equitable experience for all students:

### (a) ADJUDICATORS FOR AREA, REGION, AND STATE

(1) Recommendations from Directors. Each participating school must submit the names of three judges in October with their online enrollment. The three judges cannot be from the same region as the school making the submission.

(A) Rationale. Allowing directors' input on the judges avoids the perception of a monopoly and bias.

(2) Current Directors as Adjudicators. High school directors should be permitted to serve as judges for OAP contests, so long as they are not a part of that conference and/or region.

(A) Qualifications. Directors must have had a cast compete in UIL High School One-Act Play for at least five years and advanced to area-level or better at least one of those years.

(B) Rationale.

(i) Increases the number of qualified judges

(ii) Serves as professional development for directors

(iii) Promotes diversity in the UIL OAP judging pool

(iv) Aligns with the models used by UIL Speech & Debate, as well as UIL Music

(3) Panels. The UIL State Theatre Director will assign panels for all contests at the area, region, and state levels.

(A) The UIL State Theatre Director will use the recommendations submitted online by participating directors as a basis for their selection.

(B) No judge may serve on a panel for an area or region in which they reside or work.

(C) The panel for the State Meet must be regionally diverse, with all four regions being represented by at least one judge.

Can be considered as a

(4) Gift of Service. Adjudicators should be given the option of offering their services, free of charge. The money that they would have been paid would serve as a donation to a fund for a UIL Theatre Scholarship. This would also reduce contest fees, which in turn would alleviate some of the financial burden of qualifying schools.

### (b) CONFLICT OF INTEREST

(1) Definition. A clear definition for a "conflict of interest" should be adopted by both UIL and TTAO. The definition should be readily available to directors, contest managers, and adjudicators. The definition should be modeled after the definition used by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The definition should be revisited and revised as issues are reported.

(A) The definition should include personal relationships and give specific examples (i.e. friends, relatives, God-parent to a student or director, former college roommate, etc.).

(B) The definition should include professional relationships and give specific examples (i.e. former colleagues/co-workers, consultant work, summer camps, community theatre, speech camps, members of the same committee, etc.).

(C) The definition should include academic relationships (i.e. former instructors/teachers, former classmates, etc.).



(2) Conflict Acknowledgment.

(A) Each year, directors must submit a conflict acknowledgment form to the UIL State Theatre Office, listing all certified TTAO adjudicators that cannot judge them due to a conflict of interest.

(B) Each year, TTAO adjudicators must submit a conflict acknowledgment form to the UIL State Theatre Office, listing all high schools that they cannot judge due to a conflict of interest.

(C) Alleviates the perception of an unfair and bias decision

(3) Contest Manager. At the area, region, and state levels, the contest manager is responsible for confirming that no conflicts of interest exist between any of the judges and qualifying schools. If evidence supporting a conflict of interest is discovered, the contest manager should report the discovery to the UIL State Theatre Director as an Ethics Violation. At which point, the Theatre Director should request that the judge recuse themselves.

(4) Violations.

(A) Directors, judges, and contest managers who fail to acknowledge and/or report a conflict of interest will be suspended from UIL for at least one year.

(B) Pre-Contest.

(i) If a conflict of interest is reported before the contest is held, the UIL State Theatre Director is responsible for appointing an unbiased judge to the panel.

(ii) The UIL State Theatre Director is responsible for reporting the incident to the State Executive Committee.

(iii) The alternate from bi-district/area/region would advance.

(C) Post-Contest.

(i) The school that is involved with the conflict of interest is disqualified and deemed ineligible to compete at the next level.

(ii) The judge that is involved with the conflict has their ballot removed from the official results.

(iii) The contest's outcome is readjusted based on the remaining, two judges' ballots. If the new outcome results in an unbreakable tie, the lead judge's ballot is used for the final decision. If the lead judge is involved with the conflict of interest, a blind draw from the remaining, two judges' ballots breaks the tie.

(c) TEXAS THEATRE ADJUDICATORS AND OFFICIALS (TTAO).

(1) Individuals serving on the TTAO Board of Directors cannot concurrently serve as a UIL OAP judge or director.

(A) Rationale.

(i) Allowing individuals who are current OAP directors to also serve on the TTAO Board of Directors creates a conflict of interest.

(ii) If an issue is brought before the board (i.e. an ethics violation) in which they must determine the consequence, the existing conflict of interest would diminish the credibility and objectivity of the board's decision.

(iii) Allows for more equitable access to monetary opportunities for all TTAO members, not just members of the board.

(2) Once the UIL State Theatre Director has assigned panels for contests at the area, region, and state levels, the TTAO Board of Directors are responsible for cross referencing the conflict acknowledgement forms with the panels to ensure that a conflict of interest does not exist between a judge and the area or region for which they are to judge.

(d) ROTATION OF UIL ONE-ACT PLAY REGIONAL CONTESTS

(1) Every two years, regional contests will rotate between two different cities within the region. For example, the Region IV OAP Contest would rotate between San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley. The 2020 Region IV OAP Contest would remain in San Antonio. The following two years, 2021 and 2022, would be held in the RGV.

(2) Rationale.

(A) The regional rotation would create more equity between the schools' financial burdens that comes with traveling greater distances.

(B) Traveling greater distances creates a greater likelihood for production problems to arise (i.e. damaged set pieces, lost costumes, items left behind, etc.). Year after year, only certain schools face that greater risk.

(C) Schools that do not need to travel greater distances have more time to rehearse. Moreover, those students are provided the opportunity to be more rested.

(D) Other communities in a region could benefit from the revenue that comes from hosting the UIL OAP Regional Contest in their city (i.e. restaurants and hotels).

(e) PLAYS ON THE APPROVED LISTS

(1) Greater transparency and consistency are needed from the process for which plays join one of the approved lists, its logic, and the individuals who make up the League's Appraisal Committee.

(2) Once a play is approved for a school to produce, it should automatically be placed on one of the approved lists.

(3) Rationale. Currently, there is a lot of discrepancy and inconsistency regarding the approval process.

(A) Plays that have been performed at the State Meet are denied for schools who submit cuttings of the play that are like the cutting that was performed.

(B) There are plays that are currently on the lists with content and language that is inappropriate (i.e. *The Cripple of Inishmaan*).

(C) Schools are having to repeatedly submit a \$30 evaluation fee for to have plays evaluated that have been performed in UIL One-Act Play for more than 20 years (i.e. *Unexpected Tenderness*).

Suggest a UIL Rule Change [#1049]

Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 3:41 PM

**Will you attend the Legislative Council Meeting to make this proposal in person?**

Yes

**This rule change is for:**

Academics

**Suggested Rule Change**

1033(c)(8) Awards. (B) Individual awards shall include the best actress, best actor, all-star cast and honorable mention all-star cast. An honorable mention all-star cast, not to exceed the size of the all-star cast, may be selected at the discretion of the judge or judges. A top technician and top overall crew (team) will be selected by the Contest/Stage Manager.

**Why do you want this rule changed?**

This proposal would add an individual and a group award for technicians competing in the UIL OAP comparable to the acting awards. Best Actor/Actress, All-Star Cast, and Honorable Mention award recognition have been given since the beginning of the OAP Contest. For years contest sites have recognized the importance of Technicians and given unofficial awards. The UIL OAP State Meet does recognize a Top Technician. This proposal would officially recognize a Top Technician and Top Crew Team (as in other Academic events) at all levels of contest.

**Name**

Rod Sheffield

**Additional Questions or Comments**

The UIL Theatre Advisory Committee has created guidelines and is refining the rubric for these awards. These guidelines and rubric were tested at 6 upper level contests in 2019. We request to pilot this award with all conferences and at all levels. This information would be included in Contest Manager training and certification.

Suggest a UIL Rule Change [#1084]

Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 11:53 AM

**Will you attend the Legislative Council Meeting to make this proposal in person?**

No

**This rule change is for:**

Academics

**Suggested Rule Change**

I would like to see Chess added to the high school academic schedule. Whether it be the chess puzzle like for A+, or a tournament, I am open for either.

**Why do you want this rule changed?**

I have a chess club as do several other panhandle schools and when we can, we have a tournament against each other. I have several students that would like to continue their UIL chess in high school.

**Name**

Pamela Wood

Suggest a UIL Rule Change [#1085]

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 8:14 AM

**Will you attend the Legislative Council Meeting to make this proposal in person?**

No

**This rule change is for:**

I'm not sure which committee

**Suggested Rule Change**

As a high school Chess coach, I would love to see chess added to the high school UIL schedule. We could do actual tournaments and try to focus the majority in the fall, so as not to add too much scheduling into the spring. I have maintained a chess team for five years now and it is difficult to get other school's teams involved. There is a real interest for chess competitions on the high school level.

**Why do you want this rule changed?**

I would love to see the many students who flourish in elementary and middle school chess continue to grow their skills through high school UIL Chess.

**Name**

Ileana Jennings

Suggest a UIL Rule Change [#1088]

Monday, March 2, 2020 at 5:21 PM

**Will you attend the Legislative Council Meeting to make this proposal in person?**

No

**This rule change is for:**

Academics

**Suggested Rule Change**

To possibly add Chess as a new event.

**Why do you want this rule changed?**

We have had some interest, but not available at this time at the high school level.

**Name**

Brenda Wilson

Suggest a UIL Rule Change [#1089]

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 5:7 PM

**Will you attend the Legislative Council Meeting to make this proposal in person?**

Yes

**This rule change is for:**

I'm not sure which committee

**Suggested Rule Change**

Not really a UIL rule change but a TTAO rule change in regards to "Conflict of Interest for adjudicators of OAP. I suggest adding "former (e.g. retired) employees of a district cannot judge a contest in which that district is competing".

**Why do you want this rule changed?**

Just attended a 2020 OAP contest in which a former English and Theater Arts teacher (retired) judged not only her former school district but two that she subs for and three additional districts.

**Name**

Pam McClellan

**Proposed Amendment to the  
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

***A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Recommendation***

This amendment to Section 902, *General Regulations*, would award academic sweepstakes points at the state meet to the school of the individual in each conference that finishes as the Outstanding Presiding Officer in Congress.

***B. Factual and Policy Justifications***

Currently, no points are awarded for the outstanding presiding officer award that is presented in each conference at the Congress State Meet. This would align Congress with other academic contests that recognize a top performer or scorer.

***C. Proposed Amendment***

Section 902 (k) of the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules* will be amended as follows, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education:

Section 902: GENERAL REGULATIONS

(k) POINTS

(3) Schedule of Points. Points shall be awarded on the following basis:

ACADEMIC CONTEST POINTS						
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
SPEECH						
Congress*	15	12	10	8	6	4
Top Presiding Officer*	10					

***D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools***

This proposed amendment should have minimal fiscal impact on member schools.

***E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date***

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment will be effective August 1, 2021.