

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

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University Senates Conference
377 Henry Administration Building, MC-348
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Urbana, IL 61801

February 22, 2013

TO: University of Illinois Board of Trustees (c/o Susan Kies)
President Robert Easter
Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares
Chancellor Susan Koch
Chancellor Phyllis Wise
Professor Lynn Fisher, Chair, UIS Campus Senate
Professor Philip Patston, Chair, UIC Senate Executive Committee
Professor Matthew Wheeler, Chair, UIUC Senate Executive Committee

FROM: Nicholas Burbules, USC Chair



RE: Resolution concerning the University *Statutes* and *General Rules* as basic governing documents (USC OT-295)

The University of Illinois *Statutes* and *General Rules* provide the framework for shared governance at the University of Illinois. These documents express the common principles that define us as an institution, and they specify the processes that translate those principles into action. It is these documents that allow the University Senates Conference to function as an elected governing body representing the Senates across the three campuses. For these reasons, one of the central responsibilities of the Conference is to uphold and explain the *Statutes* and *General Rules*.

The Conference takes no position on the merits or wisdom of faculty unionization on any of the university campuses. It is the legal right of faculty members to decide whether to unionize, and collective bargaining is a key component of that right.

The Conference does assert, however, that any collective bargaining agreements that contravene the provisions of the *Statutes* and *General Rules* would represent a threat to shared governance, and to the functions of the Conference, because there can be no common faculty governance structure if the campuses operate by different, self-determined rules. The attached Resolution, approved by the Conference on February 19, 2013, documents that position.

Enclosure

UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

Passed: February 19, 2013

The University *Statutes* and *General Rules* are the basic governing documents of this university and all its three campuses.

There are processes for revising these documents, which necessarily involve all three campus Senates, the University Senates Conference, and the Board of Trustees (*Statutes*, Art XIII Sect 8; *General Rules*, Art VII).

Therefore, it is not within the jurisdiction of any individual campus to unilaterally change or make exceptions to the University *Statutes* and *General Rules*.

The University Senates Conference affirms that any provision of a campus collective bargaining agreement that contravenes the *Statutes* and *General Rules* would undermine shared governance at the University of Illinois, because it would compromise the shared principles and practices that define us as an institution.

This resolution shall be forwarded to the three Senate chairs, the three Chancellors/Vice Presidents, the President, and the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois.