

**UNIVERSITY SENATES CONFERENCE
STATEMENT ON EXCELLENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

The University Senates Conference is the only elected representative body that joins faculty members from across the entire University of Illinois in a common purpose: advising the Board of Trustees and the President, and representing the actions and the views of the three campus senates to the University and to the public.

The Conference is not simply a collection of twenty individual faculty members, or even of representatives of the senates of the three separate campuses. It is more than that: it is the collective faculty voice of the University of Illinois. For this reason, the Conference has stated its commitment to the principle that "USC members should be dedicated to the interests of the entire university and of all its three campuses, even though they are elected only by the faculty of their respective campuses" ("USC Guidelines on Transparency, Confidentiality, and the Conduct of Business," 8/22/13). That is, as members of the Conference, we represent not only our own individual views and interests, or those of our campuses and senates; we are bound to keep in mind the interests of the wider institution.

Each of the three campuses of the University of Illinois is distinct, and has established its own unique profile within the national and global contexts of higher education. At the same time, the three campuses are united in their "shared commitment to our missions of excellence in teaching, research, public service, and economic development" (<http://www.uillinois.edu/cms/one.aspx?portalId=1117531&pageId=1118433>).

Inasmuch as the University of Illinois, through its three campuses, is the leading public university in the state in each of these categories, the successes of each of the three campuses are the successes of the University and of the state of Illinois, just as threats to the well-being of any of the campuses constitute a threat to the University and to the state.

The Conference asserts its commitment to "assist the senates to communicate with one another, with University and campus administrative officials, and with the Board of Trustees (through the president)," and to "develop and implement procedures to enhance such communication" (*University Statutes*, II.2.b). It follows from this statutory charge that the University Senates Conference should endeavor in all that it does to promote the greatest degree of excellence achievable for each of the campuses, consistent with the well-being of the others.

Excellent campuses ensure the excellence of the University of Illinois. The University Senates Conference affirms that the successes of each of the three campuses benefit the entire state as well as the University of Illinois, our professional home.