

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

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University Senates Conference
378 Henry Administration Building, MC-348
506 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801

May 12, 2015

President Robert Easter
364 Henry Administration Bldg., MC 346

Re: Proposed revisions to the *Statutes*, Article X, Section 2 – Academic Freedom (USC ST-72)

Dear President Easter:

On January 18, 2013, the University Senates Conference transmitted to you proposed revisions to the *Statutes* concerning academic freedom with the request that the document be sent to the Board of Trustees. The proposed revisions were initiated by the UIUC Senate and subsequently approved by the UIC and UIS Senates.

As you know, due to some concerns with the language that were raised by you and your staff, a small working group that included members of the Senates Conference and members of your staff met several times over the course of a year to discuss potential unintentional consequences of the proposed language and to work out appropriate revisions. The result, in the opinion of the Senates Conference, is stronger language that better defines who is covered in Article X, Section 2, and removes ambiguity between references to academic freedom and to First Amendment rights. The Conference approved the proposed statutory revisions at its meeting on March 18, 2014 and transmitted the document to the senates for consideration.

All three senates have approved identical language, which is attached. The Senates Conference asks that you transmit the enclosed proposed statutory revisions to the Board of Trustees with your recommendation for approval.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Chambers, Chair
University Senates Conference

Enclosure

cc: Roy Campbell
Elizabeth Dooley
Susan Kies
Brian Moore
Christophe Pierre
Jenny Roether
Jorge Villegas
Catherine Vincent
Members, University Senates Conference