

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Urbana-Champaign • Chicago • Springfield

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

March 21, 2014

Professor Roy Campbell, Chair
UIUC Senate Executive Committee
Dept. of Computer Science
3122 Seibel Center MC 258

Professor Lynn Fisher, Chair
UIS Campus Senate
Dept. of Sociology/Anthropology
MS UHB 3038

Professor Philip Patston, Chair
UIC Senate Executive Committee
Dept. of Oral Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences
Room 558 DENT MC 838

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

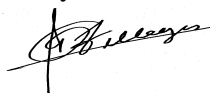
Dear Colleagues:

On January 18, 2013, the University Senates Conference transmitted to President Easter 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.

Due to some concerns with the language that were raised by the President and his staff, a small working group that included members of the Senates Conference and two members of the President's staff met several times over the past 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, which are enclosed, at its meeting on March 18. Also enclosed is the language that was initially sent to the President.

On behalf of the Senates Conference, I ask that your senate consider the proposed revisions and report back after your senate has taken action on this item.

Sincerely,



Jorge Villegas, Chair
University Senates Conference

Enclosures

cc: Elizabeth Dooley
Brian Moore
Jenny Roether

President Robert Easter
Members, University Senates Conference