

## University Senates Conference Statement on System Governing Documents and Collective Bargaining Contracts

The University of Illinois *Statutes* and *General Rules* express the governing principles that define us as an institution. These documents establish the framework for shared governance within the University of Illinois System, and they specify the responsibility of the University Senates Conference to coordinate the processes of shared governance across the three universities.

The Conference has no role in collective bargaining, and supports the legal rights of duly constituted unions to bargain over wages, hours, benefits, and working conditions. However, the Conference affirms that statutory issues are the province of the *Statutes* and *General Rules*, which can be modified only through procedures laid out in those documents.

Therefore we recommend that any collective bargaining contract for academic employees include the following proviso:

"The signatories to this contract acknowledge the authority of the *Statutes* and *General Rules* as the governing documents of the University of Illinois System."

This resolution shall be forwarded to the three Senate chairs, the three Chancellors/Vice Presidents, the President, University Legal Counsel, System Human Resource Services, and the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois.