UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT SPRINGFIELD
CAMPUS SENATE AY 2002/2003
RESOLUTION 32-8

On Combining the Center for Legal Studies and the Office of Policy and Administrative Studies into a unit named the Institute for Legal, Administrative and Policy Studies within the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Center for Governmental Studies

WHEREAS, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Center for Governmental Studies (ALPCGS) was officially created on July 18, 2002 by renaming the Institute for Public Affairs (IPA) and incorporating its functions into the larger ALPCGS with new initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Center for Government Studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) has been asked to develop administer, and deliver academic programs and activities in partnership with the new Library and Museum; and

WHEREAS, a review conducted to determine the most effective and efficient organization of new initiatives of the ALPCGS identified a need to strengthen faculty bases of some units and the academic professional/clerical bases of others; and

WHEREAS, a recommendation was developed in ALPCGS planning meetings that the Office of Policy and Administrative Studies and the Center for Legal Studies be combined into a unit known as the Institute for Legal, Administrative and Policy Studies.
Studies to permit a continuation of the missions and focuses of both entities within the framework of existing resources; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation to combine the Center for Legal Studies and the Office of Policy and Administrative Studies to form the Institute of Legal, Administrative and Policy Studies, was unanimously approved by the ALPCGS Executive Committee, the ALPCGS Cabinet and the faculty the ALPCGS;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Campus Senate of the University of Illinois at Springfield approves combining the Center for Legal Studies and the Office of Policy and Administrative Studies to form the Institute of Legal, Administrative and Policy Studies to be located within the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Center for Governmental Studies.
Resolution: Proposal to Combine the Center for Legal Studies and the Office of Policy and Administrative Studies into the Institute for Legal, Administrative and Policy Studies in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Center for Governmental Studies

Introduction. The creation of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Center for Governmental Studies (ALPCGS) at UIS in July 2002 was the culmination of a two-year planning effort. The new ALPCGS resulted from a transformation of the existing Institute for Public Affairs (IPA) and its relocation to the Provost’s Office. The eight existing units of the IPA—the Center for Legal Studies, the Illinois Legislative Studies Center, the Office of Policy and Administrative Studies, the Survey Research Office, the Illinois Issues/Publications’ Unit, the WUIS/WIPA radio station, the GPSI/ILSIP internship programs—became the foundation upon which eight new initiatives were added. The new initiatives included: an expanded Lincoln Papers Project; a new Institute for Literacy in America; an Institute for Leadership, Policy Education and Training; a Public Policy High School; a Summer Institute for High School Teachers; and their embedded programs such as a Lincoln Leadership Academy, annual Public Policy Summits, a Lincoln Legacy Lecture Series, and a number of fellowship, internship and grant opportunities.

In the late summer, the ALPCGS Planning Steering Committee, the ALPCGS Cabinet and the ALPCGS Executive Committees met at various points to discuss the organization of the new ALPCGS and the necessary steps needed to create necessary infrastructure and implement its vast program agenda. At one of these meetings, a Cabinet/Executive Committee retreat, it was realized the existing Office of Policy and Administrative Studies (OPAS), faced a very uncertain future. Similarly, the health of Center for Legal Studies was being jeopardized for very different reasons.

Created three years ago, the OPAS was to have a dominant focus on the Executive Branch, pursuing administrative and policy issues not falling within the domain of the other two research, training and technical assistance centers: the Center for Legal Studies and the Illinois Legislative Studies Center (to be renamed the Institute for Legislative Studies). Since its creation, five faculty members had been given joint appointments to pursue this mission. However, despite repeated attempts, no appropriated funding has been secured for the unit to provide even minimal administrative structure (a director and assistant director) or secretarial support. While the unit has been able to attract significant funding and projects, all activities, including the hiring of administrative/professional support staff to work with faculty, are completely funded by external grant and contracts. This hampers establishing permanent direction to the unit’s research agenda or stability in carrying out initiatives. Moreover, given the current budget situation, the ALPCGS now considers it very unlikely that permanent funding for this unit will be forthcoming in the foreseeable future.
Conversely, the Center for Legal Studies (CLES) is a well-established research, training and technical assistance entity within the ALPCGS. It has a permanent funding base, an established administrative infrastructure, and a capable support staff. Its personnel include strong administrative/professional researchers and trainers. Unfortunately, however, the CLES recently has suffered a serious reduction in its faculty complement due to retirements and faculty returning to full-time teaching. At the present time, the complement of faculty in the CLES is .8FTE, which including one faculty member with a one-half appointment and one faculty member with a one-third time appointment. Thus, the immediate problem facing the CLES is a lack of faculty members to seek or direct its grant-funded research efforts or provide substantive expertise. As with the OPAS, it is doubtful that the CLES will be able to substantially increase its faculty complement in the near future due to state budget constraints.

Merging the Office of Policy and Administrative Studies and the Center for Legal Studies into the Institute for Legal, Administrative and Policy Studies

The situation described above has, of necessary, required the informal combining of the two units in many areas. Administrative functions are frequently shared between the two. To illustrate, the current Interim Executive Director of the ALPCGS is also the Director of the CLES, and the Acting Director of the OPAS. Professional researchers and support staff from the CLES work on projects within the OPAS due to an absence of such staff in that unit. Conversely, faculty from OPAS are frequently involved in CLES projects to provide the technical expertise and project guidance unavailable there.

It was the belief of the planning group that formalizing these arrangements through a merger of the two entities would be best way to ensure the long-term viability of the missions and substantive domains of each. To this end, it was proposed that the CLES be merged with the OPAS into the Institute for Legal, Administrative and Policy Studies within the ALPCGS. The designation of Institute rather than Center being used to reframe the unit’s identity to take advantage of research, training and public policy initiatives created through the larger domain of the ALPCGS and to insure consistency with the structure of the larger ALPCGS.

At a general faculty meeting of the ALPCGS on 9/19/02, the faculty voted unanimously in favor of the proposed merger of the CLES and OPAS name into the Institute for Legal, Policy and Administrative Studies.