WHEREAS recent national studies have emphasized the unique potential for Living-Learning Communities to positively impact students’ education success; and

WHEREAS students not only perform better in class, but feel more connected to their peers, the faculty and staff, and the University, and as a result, are more likely to return the next year; and

WHEREAS these unique communities bring academics into the residence halls through on-site classes, advising and referral services, tutors, and special opportunities for students to interact with faculty and staff outside the classroom; and

WHEREAS Living-Learning Communities also allow students to build lifetime friendships; and

WHEREAS the original Capital Scholars (now the Capital Scholars Honors program) was created as a Living Learning Community in which students’ academic success is supported through the residential experience; and

WHEREAS the Lincoln Residence Hall was designed and used as a Living Learning Community for 5 years with great success; and

WHEREAS the General Education Working Group recommended that a Living Learning Community be part of the expansion of the Capital Scholars Program which is scheduled to begin in 2006; and

WHEREAS the General Education Council endorses housing which supports a Living and Learning Community for incoming first year students starting in 2006;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in order to promote educational excellence, that any residence halls built at UIS for undergraduates who are admitted as part of the expansion of the Capital Scholars program must have academic spaces which will support a Living Learning Community.