BE IT RESOLVED by the Campus Senate of the University of Illinois at Springfield:

WHEREAS over 70% of UIS faculty routinely use “electronic course materials” such as e-mail, Power Point, Blackboard, and web-based syllabi to teach traditional and on-line courses;

WHEREAS UIS support services plans to routinely create a “Blackboard” site for every course, so that the use of electronic course materials at UIS is now usual and customary; and

WHEREAS UIS has provided faculty with traditional facilities, supplies, and support services and now provides electronic hardware and software, so that faculty may effectively teach students; and

WHEREAS proposed changes to the General Rules on Intellectual Property substantially change and lessen the ownership rights of faculty to their intellectual property including any content which is in the form of “electronic course materials;” and

WHEREAS proposed changes to the General Rules on Intellectual Property will unnecessarily limit the teaching and pedagogical choices of the faculty teaching traditional and on-line courses by imposing financial disincentives; and

WHEREAS issues of teaching and pedagogy should be decided by faculty on the basis of educational merit, not ownership rights; and

WHEREAS the Statutes recognize the faculty as the body responsible for teaching:

b. As the responsible body in the teaching, research, and scholarly activities of the University, the faculty has inherent interests and rights in academic policy and governance. [Article II, Section 3.b. boldface added.]; and
WHEREAS the Statutes recognize the Senate as the proper body to determine educational policy:

“Each senate may exercise legislative functions in matters of educational policy affecting the University as a whole or its own campus only. Article II, Section 1.b. boldface added.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT UIS faculty maintain their intellectual property rights in all course content, regardless of its form, traditional or electronic, subject to the exception outlined in the General Rules, which leaves ownership in the creator but gives licensing rights to the University for “academic copyrightable works created using University resources over and above those usually and customarily provided.” G.R. Article III, Section 4 (b).

THAT any changes in the General Rules on Intellectual Property which have a direct relationship to teaching and pedagogy be submitted to the campus senates for approval by the faculty in accordance with the Statutes; and

THAT this Resolution be communicated to the other senates, the provosts, the chancellors, the University Senates Conference, the University Intellectual Property Committee, the Vice President for Technology and Economic Development, and the President.