Proposed Revisions to the Statutes, Article X, Section 2 – Academic Freedom [ST-72]

WHEREAS academic freedom is a core value of the University of Illinois but is not explicitly defined in the University of Illinois Statutes,

WHEREAS principles of academic freedom are intended to maintain and encourage the free exchange of ideas in teaching, research, and in the important roles played by teachers and researchers as self-governing members of an academic community and engaged public intellectuals in a larger community

WHEREAS the “inherent interests and rights [of faculty] in academic policy and governance” are established both by University policy [Statutes Article II, Section 3b] and by practice and custom at the University of Illinois,

WHEREAS it is a vital part of the mission of the University of Illinois Springfield to extend “its scholarship, teaching, learning, and expertise beyond the campus … in the broad area of public affairs … [in a way that] shapes and informs public policy, trains tomorrow’s leaders, and enriches its learning environment through a wide range of public affairs activities, programs, and organizations” (http://www.uis.edu/strategicplan/plan/sectionOne/mission.html),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Campus Senate of the University of Illinois Springfield hereby support and approve the “Proposed Revisions to the Statutes, Article X, Section 2 – Academic Freedom [ST-72]” to strengthen statutory language “to more specifically define the scope of academic freedom and to affirm the freedom of the University of Illinois’ academic staff to teach, conduct research, and participate in faculty governance and civic discourse without interference.”

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