

**May 21, 2009**

## **U. of Illinois Gives Global Campus the (Re)boot**

The [old Global Campus](#) is dead.

The new version of University of Illinois's distance-learning program began in Chicago today, where the [Board of Trustees unanimously backed a fundamental shift](#) for the troubled venture.

The expensive project suffered from unspectacular enrollments and faculty opposition. The system will now scrap its drive to build a centralized stand-alone virtual university and will instead leave authority for online learning to its three campuses. The so-called Global Campus 2.0, [described here](#), will be based on [this report](#) from a task force of faculty and administrators.

"I'm very optimistic," said Ray Schroeder, director of the [Office of Technology-Enhanced Learning](#) at the University of Illinois at Springfield. "I think that the trustees retained their commitment to access and online learning. I think the campuses do as well. I think we're going to see growth and that the restart, the 2.0 version, is going to work."

Chester S. Gardner, leader of the current Global Campus, will return to a faculty role, University of Illinois President B. Joseph White announced at the board meeting today.  
—*Marc Parry*