

University of Illinois at Springfield  
Student Government Association  
Resolution 2008-004

Resolution on the University Ethics Act

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association (SGA) is vested with the authority to represent the students of the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) in issues affecting them; and

WHEREAS, the SGA strongly supports the students' right to freedom of expression and believes that involvement in political discourse is central to a liberal arts education; and

WHEREAS, UIS is renowned for its emphasis on involvement in public affairs and experiential learning, which the UIS strategic plan identifies as an important part of its mission<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, student workers have expressed concern about how their adherence to the current interpretation of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act will affect their ability to engage in political discourse and public affairs; and

WHEREAS, the SGA appreciates President White's memo on the Ethics Act and his position on the political rights of University employees; and

WHEREAS, the SGA believes that the current interpretation of the Act remains problematic because the prohibition of political apparel in the workplace violates students' First Amendment rights;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UIS SGA commends President White for supporting the right of University employees to attend partisan political rallies,

display partisan bumper stickers on their cars and exercise their political rights;  
and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UIS SGA recommends that further  
clarifications be made to the Ethics Act that will remove limitations on political  
apparel in the workplace.

---

<sup>1</sup>Creating a Brilliant Future: A Strategic Plan for the University of Illinois at Springfield  
(2006) <http://www.uis.edu/strategicplan/plan/sectionone/mission.html>

---

Ashley Rook  
President

---

Yolanda Beamon  
Secretary