

University of Illinois Springfield

Student Government Association Resolution 17 (AY 13-14)

Opposing the Removal of Students From Key Campus Senate Committees

By: Treasurer Joshua Eastby, Student Trustee Jamaal Hollins, External Vice-President Riley Quinlan, Secretary Samia Ahmad, Kyle Noland, Speaker Paige Heiser, Senator Marc Reiter, Senator Brian Geiger, Senator Justin Ketterman, Senator Michael Lotspeich, Senator Garrett McAlister, Senator Katie Reynolds, Senator Michael Oyakojo

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association is vested with the authority to represent the students of the University of Illinois Springfield;

WHEREAS, the University of Illinois at Springfield has a well-established tradition of requesting and using the opinions and input of student in the evaluation of faculty for reappointment, promotion, and tenure;

WHEREAS, each of these is an important decision for the faculty and the campus;

WHEREAS, student input into the academic process can and should be measured by more than just numbers on a course evaluation form;

WHEREAS, student members of the committees affected by Campus Senate Resolution 43-14 (2013/2014) are uniquely able to provide insight for the deliberations of these committees beyond the information gathered in standard course evaluation forms, and these alternate avenues addressed in Campus Senate Resolution 43-14 are not as information-rich as direct student input is;

WHEREAS, conflicts of interest in serving on committees with or reviewing faculty are not limited solely to students, and as such faculty are equally at risk for conflicts of interest;

WHEREAS, the purpose of an institution of higher education is to stimulate the development of students both academically and professionally;

WHEREAS, the scholarly understanding required to conduct a reasoned deliberation for tenure, sabbatical, and promotion purposes is substantively similar to the scholarly understanding required to be a successful student at an institution of higher education;

WHEREAS, students employed at UIS are frequently exposed to confidential information about fellow students, and the University places trust in these student employees to maintain strict confidentiality, and such expectation of confidentiality is called into question by Campus Senate Resolution 43-14;

WHEREAS, the premise that being an employee of the University carries a stronger disincentive to violate confidentiality in the personnel process than being a student of the University is foundationally flawed;

WHEREAS, the justifications presented in Campus Senate Resolution 43-14 are unpersuasive and constitute a vote of no confidence in the intellect and ability of students to deliberate on important academic matters such as tenure, sabbatical, and promotion considerations with the ethics and discretion necessary to present reasoned recommendations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Student Government Association strongly opposes attempts to limit student input into important components of the academic process such as those sought in Campus Senate Resolution 43-14;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Student Government Association condemns Resolution 43-14 for attempting to reduce student input into campus governance by alleging deficiencies in the ability of students to deliberate on important matters in an informed, impartial, ethical, and professional manner;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Government Association reaffirms and endorses the tradition of student engagement embodied most visibly in the Leadership Lived brand with which UIS identifies, and recognizes student input in administrative and personnel matters as an integral part of the student body's engagement with the mission of the University and its development as an institution of higher education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Government Association recognizes the compelling interest all parties share in ensuring that student input is of a high quality, and supports the establishment of documents containing the information necessary for ensuring quality student input and confidentiality, including but not limited to the provision of scholarly works integral to the model of teaching, scholarship, and service utilized in tenure decisions, and other such documents as the Provost and the Chair of these committees should so direct;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution be forwarded to the Provost and members of the Campus Senate Executive Committee, including Lynn Fisher, Chair, Kathy Jamison, Vice-Chair, Holly Thompson, Secretary, and John Transue, Parliamentarian, as well as members of the Campus Senate as a whole, to express the Student Government Association's wish that student involvement in the administration of the University be respected as a tradition integral to the campus, and not discarded, setting precedent for further limitations on the student body's voice in campus administrative decisions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution be forwarded to members of the Campus Senate Personnel Policies Committee including Deborah Anthony, Chair, Nathan Steele, Mike Miller, Adriana Crocker, and the Ex-Officio members including the Provost and Dean Larry Stonecipher, Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, to express the Student Government Association's wish that student input into campus administration be increased, not decreased, in matters integral to the educational and professional development of students at the University.

President Aaron Mulvey

Secretary Samia Ahmad