

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Committee on the Budget
(Final; Action)

BG.16.01 Resolution Calling for the State of Illinois to Enact a Budget

WHEREAS, public higher education serves essential functions for citizens throughout the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a FY 2016 budget is causing serious harm to public universities across the state, including the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a budget impedes the ability of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to fulfill its land-grant mission; and

WHEREAS the absence of a FY 2016 budget negatively impacts the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's ability to improve and increase undergraduate diversity and enrollment of in-state students, to retain and improve our world-class research faculty and facilities, and to increase technological research and entrepreneurship that improves economic conditions and increases employment in the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and enhancing diversity of our student body, faculty and staff is integral to the strategic goals of fostering scholarship, discovery and innovation, making a significant and visible societal impact, and providing transformative learning experiences; and

WHEREAS, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is currently revising its internal financial reporting system and tuition allocation system to better align college incentives with strategic goals, which we expect will increase undergraduate enrollment of in-state students; and

WHEREAS, this goal of expanding enrollment can only be achieved if the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign improves and adds to its teaching spaces, while also increasing the size of its faculty; and

WHEREAS, this lack of a budget impedes the ability of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to retain our world-class teaching and research faculty, who frequently receive offers from other universities; and

WHEREAS, replacing world-class faculty, once they are lost, is costly and complex, and made even more difficult by uncertain state funding; and

WHEREAS, it requires decades to build a world-class research institution, but only a few years to reduce such an institution to average; and

WHEREAS, the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign needs strong support from the State of Illinois to continue and enhance its ability to educate students in the State of Illinois, to contribute to the general economy of the State of Illinois, and to build the Chicago-Urbana-Champaign corridor into a world-class center for innovation and entrepreneurship,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus of the University of Illinois urges the State's Legislature and Governor to expeditiously pass a FY 2016 budget that strongly supports funding for higher education throughout the State of Illinois and that demonstrates a strong multi-year commitment in support of higher education in the State of Illinois.

Committee on the Budget

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