

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Senate Executive Committee
(Final; Action)

SC.17.08 Statement of Support for the Principles Underlying the Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment (IPAC) Proposal

The Morrill Act in 1862 established the Land Grant Universities. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was founded under this legislation. Implicit in the land grant concept is a compact between the university and the state: public funding to help support the operations of the university, and a commitment from the university “to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.” The mission of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has broadened from that original conception; but the ideal of service to the citizens of the state, and teaching and research that contributes to the wider social good, is essential to the land grant mission.

The current proposal to establish “The Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment (IPAC)” is consistent with this historic commitment, making more explicit and predictable the mutual obligations between the University and the State of Illinois.

As the Senate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, we endorse this mutual commitment and the principles expressed in this proposal. The IPAC goals, as stated in the President’s press release (<https://www.uillinois.edu/president/IPAC>) are highlighted in bold, followed by our supporting statements of principle. We have clustered related goals together:

GOAL: “The Board may not increase the base rate of in-State undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees by more than the rate of inflation”

PRINCIPLES: We agree that the University must work to make a University of Illinois education more affordable. We are extremely concerned about student debt. While one must expect to pay for quality, we believe that previous tuition increases have priced the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign at the upper limits of what we can expect in-state students to pay. For the duration of this agreement, we support the basis of the rate of inflation for increases for in-state students.

GOAL A: “The University of Illinois will admit a minimum number of Illinois residents as undergraduates (14,000 undergraduate students at Urbana-Champaign)”

GOAL B: “Illinois residents will comprise at least 50% combined of any growth in on-campus undergraduate enrollment above 2015-2016 levels”

PRINCIPLES: We are centrally committed to the education of Illinois students. We are the University of *Illinois*, and our identity is tied to students and alumni from this state. We support these thresholds as realistic and attainable. At the same time, as a global university we also have a wider mission to serve outstanding students from across the nation and around the world. This diversity enriches the learning experience for all students, and the tuition from out of state students represents a crucial part of our income.

GOAL A: “The System will provide at least 12.5% combined of the state appropriation to need-based financial aid for Illinois residents”

GOAL B: “The System will commit to annual financial assistance to underrepresented students of at least \$15M financial aid targeted for students of Illinois who are undergraduates from historically underrepresented populations”

PRINCIPLES: We endorse an ongoing commitment to need-based financial aid. As a public university, we have an obligation that our student population should reflect the range of qualified candidates across the state, including underrepresented groups, low income groups, and first-in-family to pursue higher education. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign must be an avenue of opportunity for deserving applicants from all sectors of society, and must support their learning with financial aid to the extent we can. The specific targets here are minimums.

GOAL: “The System will maintain at least a combined 87% first-to-second year retention rate and at least a combined 72% six-year graduation rate for first-time freshmen in undergraduate programs”

PRINCIPLES: We are committed not only to admitting and supporting a diverse student body, but in helping them to succeed. No one is served well by admitting a large number of students who enter the University but do not finish. High retention and graduation rates have been a hallmark of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and we will work to maintain, and surpass, this record.

GOAL: “The System will increase accountability to the state by providing an annual report card on key indicators, published and updated on the university website”

PRINCIPLES: We are committed to transparency and accountability in university matters. Sharing accurate and up-to-date information about our accomplishments, where we are doing well and where we can improve, is a service to various constituencies, internal as well as external, and not only the state government. We believe that it is important that these metrics reflect our institutional priorities and aspirational goals.

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We welcome three aspects of the state’s commitment to the university. First, no successful enterprise can operate effectively or pursue long-term strategic planning when it is faced with uncertainty about its resources from year to year. A consistent level of committed funding will allow us to allocate resources efficiently, to plan for the future, and to make commitments to faculty as well as students that will help them realize more security in their future at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Second, regulatory relief is a very high priority for faculty, especially those with extensive research projects. These state rules were not implemented because of wrongdoing at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, but they have had deleterious unintended consequences for us, including faculty needing to return research grant funding because they could not purchase necessary equipment or supplies in a timely way to complete the project. These changes are long overdue and we welcome them.

Third, an Illinois Excellence Fund will help us in the crucial effort to recruit and retain the kind of world-class faculty that have given the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign its identity as a globally top-

ranked institution. The market for excellent faculty is becoming even more competitive, and we know that the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has been targeted by other universities as a place to “raid” faculty. Uncertain state funding, a lack of a regular salary program, and questions about the future of health care benefits and pensions all make keeping up in that competitive environment more and more challenging. It can take decades to build a top-ranked program, but only a few years for it to significantly weaken.

In closing, we who have joined the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and who have remained here, are committed to the public university land grant mission. We are committed to the state of Illinois and its citizens. We have made a commitment to the local and state communities of which we are a part. We want to create an even stronger state for us, for our children, and for all the citizens of the state. The Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment is a mechanism for realizing those mutual commitments which are absolutely essential for building and maintaining a world-class university.

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Along with the SEC, the following Senate Committees endorse this mutual commitment and the principles expressed in this proposal.

Admissions

Budget

Committee on Committees

General University Policy

The Senate Committee on **Educational Policy** has evaluated this proposal on its technical standards only and found that the goals listed can be met without undue difficulty by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign at this time.

The **Council of Academic Professionals** (CAP) endorses this mutual commitment and the principles expressed in this proposal.