

UIC SENATE

RESOLUTION ON SEEKING INDEPENDENT ACCREDITATION FOR THE GLOBAL CAMPUS

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees established the Global Campus eighteen months ago with the primary goals of establishing the academic and business structure, demonstrating that it works, expanding the academic program pipeline, and managing costs; and

WHEREAS, these goals were achieved, but the single most important goal of offering scalable, low-cost, career-enhancing baccalaureate and masters degrees in high-demand disciplines has not been achieved; and

WHEREAS, the Global Campus, lacking independent accreditation, must partner with University of Illinois colleges and departments to develop and offer such baccalaureate degree programs; and

WHEREAS, University of Illinois colleges and departments have significant responsibilities to serve the tens of thousands of students in residence on their campuses, to care for the thousands of patients in our hospital and clinics, and to conduct the research and scholarly work necessary to further their academic disciplines; and

WHEREAS, those important priorities have placed limits on the ability of University of Illinois colleges and departments to partner with the Global Campus to develop and offer affordable baccalaureate degree completion and masters degree programs in many disciplines; and

WHEREAS, the requirement to partner with University of Illinois colleges and departments combined with their limited ability to participate prevents the Global Campus from developing programs in the areas of greatest demand by non-traditional learners and from addressing its full mission of access and affordability; and

WHEREAS, to address this problem President B. Joseph White has proposed that the Global Campus seek independent Higher Learning Commission accreditation and develop necessary programs with the help of selected University of Illinois faculty and Global Campus clinical faculty; and

WHEREAS, such an approach would create programs that ensure University of Illinois academic quality, provide the ability to meet demand, provide the ability to offer highly affordable programs and ultimately allow the Global Campus to realize its mission of access and affordability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the UIC Senate supports President White's proposal to seek Higher Learning Commission accreditation for the Global Campus and recognizes this approach as the best way to allow the Global Campus to fulfill its mission; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the UIC Senate offers assistance by providing academic oversight and approval processes for Global Campus programs during the accreditation process.