

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**

Committee on General University Policy

GP.09.06 Annual Report for 2008-2009
(Final; Information)

The Senate General University Policy Committee (GUP) is responsible for studying, reporting and making recommendations to the Senate concerning general University policy in broad terms. This report summarizes the activities of GUP during the 2008-2009 academic year. GUP met six times (September 9, November 4, December 2, January 28, February 25, and March 18). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

Items that were under active consideration this year (2008-09):

GP.08.01 Orchard Downs Redevelopment

Chancellor Herman met with GUP on December 2, 2008 to discuss the process and current status. The project has evolved from a retirement community to a multi-generational one, also with small retail outlets. It is currently on hold while a major developer is being sought. The multi-step development is planned to begin in 2011.

GP.08.03 Possible Outsourcing of Student E-Mail Services

GUP held a follow-up meeting on January 28, 2009 with two members of Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services (CITES): Randy Cetin, Executive Program Officer for IT Resource Coordination and Kelly Bridgewater, Customer Relations Coordinator. Also present was Chuck Thompson, Assistant Dean of Engineering and Director of Information Services. This group will make a recommendation to the Senate via the Senate Information Technology Committee.

GP.08.04 Process for Policies

Associate Chancellor Peg Rawles met with GUP on February 25, 2009 for an update on the development of a process for new policies and one to codify existing policies. CIO Sally Jackson and the Senate IT Committee are currently addressing IT policies while the chancellor's office is looking at general campus policies.

GP.09.01 Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government Fund

The Chancellor's approval of this program was controversial because it would reside in the UI Foundation but would function as an independent academic/research program. After discussion in the Senate, a series of meetings were held between faculty in support of the fund and the donors in an attempt to rewrite the Memorandum of Agreement to conform to standard university practices. These meetings failed to reach agreement and the project was abandoned.

GP.09.02 Allowed Political Activities of Campus Employees

Because this topic came up suddenly and a GUP statement was agreed to via email just prior to the Senate meeting of November 3, 2008, it was never on a GUP meeting agenda and a detailed description is given here. After the UI Ethics Office issued a newsletter prohibiting all political activities on campus, President White issued a statement that the newsletter was not UI policy but an interpretation of state law. White said that bumper stickers and attendance at rallies while not on duty are allowed. Also allowed is the wearing of political buttons while not on duty or in the University workplace. GUP objected to this latter point and prefiled a Senate resolution stating that: *The UIUC Senate affirms the University as a community of open discourse and free exchange of ideas. University policy on political activities should reflect this. Each*

faculty, staff, and student employee should be allowed to use his or her judgment as to what is appropriate regarding political buttons. (The complete resolution is at <http://www.senate.illinois.edu/gp0902.asp>) This resolution passed unanimously by voice vote. (Because of another agenda item President White was present at this Senate meeting.)

GP.09.03 Campus Energy Policy and Sustainability

Director of Conservation Terry Ruprecht briefed the committee on November 4, 2008. The campus is improving energy use by several means, including a major lighting retrofit/upgrade program and adopting LEEDS (Leadership in Environmental Energy and Design) standards for all major projects. On the downside, the Blue Waters petascale computational system, scheduled to come online in 2011, will consume 30% of campus electricity.

GP 09.04 Unofficial St. Patrick's Day

During Associate Chancellor Peg Rawles' visit she also discussed preparations for Unofficial St. Patrick's Day in March. More restrictions will be enforced in an attempt to make the event more boring for our own students and more unattractive to potential campus visitors.

GP 09.05 Methods to Reduce Payroll Expenses

Elyne Cole, Associate Provost for Human Resources, visited on March 18, 2009. Options being considered to reduce payroll costs include early retirement incentives, a "soft-freeze" on hiring, travel expenses, etc., and furloughs. The latter is the most controversial and would require new language permitting it in the Notification of Appointment. [This has been done for NOAs 2009-2010].

Items that are being monitored by the committee:

GP.05.02 Campus Master Plan

GP.06.02 Strategic Plan

GP.06.03 Research Board

GP.07.02 Global Campus

GP.07.04 Multi-Year Contracts Policy and Implementation

GP.08.01 Orchard Downs Redevelopment

GP.08.03 Possible Outsourcing of Student E-Mail Services

GP.08.04 Process for Policies

GP.09.02 Allowed Political Activities of Campus Employees

GP.09.05 Methods to Reduce Payroll Expenses

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