

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Prefiled Resolution

RS.16.05 Resolution on the Process to Change the Status of the Center for Advanced Study

WHEREAS, with no official announcement, the staff of the Center for Advanced Study (CAS) have learned that the CAS building will be closed and that their positions will either be eliminated or transferred to other units; and

WHEREAS, the Vice Chancellor for Research has confirmed the general contours of these changes to the Senate Executive Committee, noting the budget-driven necessity for elimination administrative costs while working to maintain CAS's programs; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Advanced Study, unique among our peer institutions, has played and can continue to play a vital role as a place where interdisciplinary conversations and programs occur and have an impact on the campus, through its fellowships, MillerComm public events, seminars, and other events; and

WHEREAS; CAS's interdisciplinary impact is far reaching, including undergraduates and the general public as well as graduate students and faculty while also bringing together these constituencies, often making it the only unit that draws together faculty and students from all quarters of our vast and multi-disciplinary campus; and

WHEREAS, such cross-campus conversations focused on academically substantial issues are important and will only become more so in the years ahead as the interplay of technology, scientific knowledge, human culture(s), and the creative arts intensifies, providing a vital counter to the pressures of funding and specialization that can separate students and academic units from one another; and

WHEREAS, the evolution of CAS into a "virtual" center to save money does not appear to fully account for the fact that maintaining its current programs will require more dedicated staffing than appears to be planned, all while a "virtual" center would lose the programmatic possibilities embodied in the CAS building and existing staff; and

WHEREAS, Although the Senate *Standing Rule* 13.B. ("Formation, Termination, Separation, Transfer, Merger, Change in Status, or Renaming of Units") calling for public hearings before major changes in an academic unit's status, may not apply to the present circumstances of CAS, importantly SR13.B articulates a culture of public discussion and consultation, now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus calls for an open campus discussion of how CAS can lead a vigorous program of cross campus initiatives while helping the university to manage its financial challenges.

Respectfully submitted and co-sponsored by:

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