

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Committee on University Student Life  
(Final; Information)

SL.09.01      2008-09 Annual Report

The following report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on University Student Life (USL) during the 2008-2009 academic year. The Committee met seven times: October 2, October 30, December 4, January 29, February 19, March 19, and April 16. One of USL's primary functions is to serve as a liaison between students and the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs. Another is to raise, discuss, and act on issues of particular concern to student life.

Throughout the year, Vice-Chancellor Renee Romano and Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students Kenneth Ballom brought information to USL on new programs and student affairs issues. Student Senate President Jaclyn O'Day and USL Vice Chair Yusif Al-Rawi reported on activities of the Student Senate. Assistant Provost Domonic Cobb kept the committee informed on activities in the Provost's office of interest to the committee.

A number of issues have been raised and addressed during the year through invited presentations. These included:

- Esther Patt, Coordinator of the Tenant Union. She provided information for the discussion of the issues that led to the ISS Resolution on Lease Signing. In the resolution, ISS requests that ordinances be passed to move the lease signing period to the spring semester to lessen the problems caused when lease signing starts as early as October.
- Michael Andrechak, Associate Provost for Budget and Resource Planning. He discussed the trends in financial support for the University as the share of tuition has tripled and what the campus may do to deal with tuition and fees for next year.
- Daniel Mann, Director of Financial Aid. He discussed trends in financial aid and student debt over the past decade and provided an update on the current financial aid situation. He concluded by noting some of the financial aid challenges and initiatives affecting student during the coming year.
- Michael DeLorenzo, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Director of Auxiliary Services. He discussed the challenges facing those directing the units that he supervises such as the Assembly Hall, McKinley Health Center, the Residence Halls, the Illini Union, and the Campus Recreation facilities.

- Peter Mortensen, Associate Provost Fellow. He provided an overview of a number of undergraduate academic affairs initiatives including programs to assist transfer students both within the UIUC campus and from other campuses; the use of a new tool to improve math placement; and steps being taken to address the concerns reported by the 2006-07 Pathways in Undergraduate Education Working Group.
- Paul Joffe, Clinical Counselor, Counseling Center. He described a new program on the UIUC campus entitled “Progressive Community Engagement.” The goal is to prevent violence through a focus on small-scale precursor incidents. As the title indicates, the program works progressively (in small steps) in the student’s natural “community” through personal engagement such as by email, phone, or face-to-face contact.

USL urges that student input be solicited through as many Senate committees as possible. The Committee especially urges that USL be included in all Senate deliberations in which university student life is or may be affected. This will be particularly important as campus leaders consider allocation of future budgets.

#### COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIFE

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Rae-Anne Montague, *Ex officio*

Jaclyn O’Day, *Ex officio*

Renee Romano, *Ex officio*