

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Chancellor

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



November 2, 2007

Professor Nick Burbules
Chair, Senate Executive Committee
228 English Building
MC-461

Dear Nick,

Today I am asking that you post on the Senate Web site the "Report on the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on the Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government Fund." As you know, on September 24 of this year, in consultation with the Senate Executive Committee, I appointed an eight-member faculty/student/staff committee both in response to concerns raised about the fund agreement, due to public statements by some associated with the Fund, and to help guide any requests for uses of the Fund's resources. It soon became apparent that various interpretations of the agreement were being made on behalf of the University. At that point I felt that the Committee needed to help provide guidelines to the agreement, in light of statements that UIF President Sid Micek and I had made in my transmissions (posted on the Senate Website) about the stewardship role of the UIF and the role of the faculty, especially in curricular matters. Accordingly, I shared, on a confidential basis, the full MOA on the Fund with the Committee.

In its report, the Committee stated, "The Academy created by the MOA of July 20, 2006, is premised on the desire to encourage intellectual diversity and civil debate. The Committee endorses that goal wholeheartedly as concordant with the University's reason for being and with the life of the mind within it. Although the Committee concludes that the specific manner in which that goal is to be achieved is inconsistent with fundamental principles governing the University, the Committee earnestly hopes that these donors will decide to contribute to intellectual diversity and civil debate within the University in ways that are consistent with these principles."

I take these statements very seriously and they certainly merit careful consideration. I look forward to a full discussion with the Senate.

I want to thank the Committee and its Chair, Professor of Law, Thomas Ulen. I particularly appreciate the candor of the Committee. This was an important task and I am grateful for the fine work of its members.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard Herman'.

Richard Herman
Chancellor