

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**

Prefiled Resolution

RS.13.01 Resolution in Response to the Illinois Student Senate Resolution AA.2013.09, Protection Against Retaliation

Whereas, on Wednesday, October 24, 2012, the Illinois Student Senate passed AA.2013.09 which urges campus departments to withhold retribution from students choosing to peacefully participate in a strike organized by the Graduate Employees' Organization (GEO), and

Whereas, in the same resolution, the Illinois Student Senate calls upon the Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus to reaffirm its call for a timely and fair resolution to the ongoing graduate employee contract negotiation process,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus does hereby join the Student Senate in their call for campus departments to withhold retaliation against students choosing to peacefully participate in a potential work action and further urges both the GEO and the University Administration to advance to a timely and fair resolution in regards to contract negotiations, and

Be it finally resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the President and Members of the Illinois Student Senate, and that copies of this Resolution and Student Senate Resolution AA.2013.09 be transmitted to the President of the University of Illinois, the Provost of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Chair and Members of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, and the members of the University and GEO bargaining teams, as well as the various colleges, departments, and units of the greater University Community at large.

Sponsored by Senators:

Monte Beaty

Carey Hawkins Ash

Calvin Lear



STUDENT SENATE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

AA.2013.09
October 17, 2012

ILLINOIS STUDENT SENATE
NINTH ASSEMBLY

SPONSORS: Senator Monte Beaty, with the Support of Senators Carey Hawkins Ash, Calvin Lear, Steven Rogers, Kevin Seymour, Carlos Duarte, Max Ellithorpe, Lauren Eiten, Amit Sangai, Rosa Rosas, Adrian Radoccea, Steven Letourneau, Jim Maskeri, Vice President External Ryan Young, Chris Dayton, Jordan Morris, Sarah Halko, Vice President Internal Shao Guo, Keenan Kassar, Joseph Moseley III Akash Agarwal, Eric Federico, Daniel Michaelson, Dion Broughton.

APPROVAL FOR ACTION: Approved and endorsed by the Standing Committee on Academic Affairs and forwarded to the Senate Floor on 10/21 by a vote of 6-0-1

SENATE ACTION: Approved by a vote of 36-0-2

Protection Against Retaliation

Whereas, the more than two-thousand, two hundred (2,200) graduate students the GEO represents have been working under an expired contract since August 16, 2012, the date the Fall 2012 semester began, and

Whereas, many of the 10,673 graduate students enrolled at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will at some point work as a University Graduate or Teaching Assistant and thus be protected under the contract currently being negotiated, and

Whereas, graduate employees contribute significantly to the high quality of education at this University, and

Whereas, among these contributions are the teaching of more than twenty percent (20%) of all undergraduate course hours on campus, and the instruction of more than thirty-six percent (36%) of all freshman classes, and

Whereas, the above shows that the sustained labor of graduate employees is paramount to the maintenance of this campus' stellar reputation for teaching and research, and

Whereas, the Illinois Student Senate, speaking on behalf of the student body, supported in times past the several ideals advanced by members of the graduate student community that are currently being deliberated in contract negotiations, and

Whereas, if current negotiations are not amicably resolved in a timely manner, graduate student employees are likely to withhold their labor, which is their legal right pursuant to Illinois Compiled Statute, (5 ILCS 5/13 Strikes), and



STUDENT SENATE

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Whereas, this Body acknowledges and supports in principle the exercising of the rights, privileges, and freedoms granted to those students who would withhold their labor in compliance with federal regulations and the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act, however

This Senate acknowledges that the withholding of graduate student labor in part or in whole during the final weeks of this semester would result in a significant reduction in class instruction, greatly diminish the progress of numerous discussion sections, restrict the advancement of research efforts, and drastically increase the academic burden borne by our already heavily laden faculty, and

Whereas, it is in the interest of the University Administration, the Graduate and Undergraduate students of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and the citizens of the state of Illinois that the GEO and the University resolve their negotiations without resort to a work-action, and

Nonetheless, the Illinois Student Senate body fundamentally holds that students must be able to exercise their liberties and freedoms without fear of retribution from the University Administration or the agents and entities thereof, and

Therefore, it is resolved, that the Illinois Student Senate, the official voice of the Student Body of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, does hereby urge the Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus to reaffirm our request that the several academic departments hold harmless and withhold retribution toward those students who would choose to exercise their rights to free expression and collective negotiation through work action - out of respect for their constitutionally and statutorily guaranteed rights and freedoms, as the Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus did in 2009 (Senate Resolution 11.04.2009.03), and

It is further resolved, that the Illinois Student Senate does moreover request the Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus to call upon both the University Administration and the GEO to advance to a timely and fair resolution regarding the ongoing contract negotiation process, and

Be it finally resolved, that copies of this resolution be delivered to the Offices of the President of the University of Illinois, the Chancellor and Provost of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Chair and Members of the Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus, as well as all members of the University Bargaining Committee, in addition to the leadership of the GEO and the Chair and Members of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees.

Brock Gebhardt
President
Illinois Student Senate

Jenny Baldwin
Chief of Staff
Illinois Student Senate