

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Senate Executive Committee
(Final; Action)

SC.18.08 Statement on the Land Grant Mission and the Public Contract

As the Land Grant University for the state of Illinois, established by the Morrill Act with the explicit goal “to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits of professions of life,” the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is centrally committed to making outstanding higher education accessible to the people of our state. Balanced with the University's commitment to serve the public is the state's commitment to provide the funding needed to implement this vision.

[The Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment](#), proposed by President Killeen in November 2016, and endorsed by this Senate on December 5, 2016, expresses specific commitments the University has made to the State regarding tuition rates, enrollment targets, financial aid, serving underrepresented student populations, and other aspects of our core Land Grant mission. In keeping with the spirit of the Morrill Act, the [IPAC](#) also expresses the University's expectation that the State of Illinois “provide a stable appropriation every year for five years that enables the university to deliver on its multiple missions as a state university and properly plan for its future.”

It is imperative that the State of Illinois fulfill this obligation, providing stable appropriations at a rate that will allow the University to maintain and enhance its world-class standing in higher education. Stable state appropriations are directly related to our programs’ abilities to maintain accreditation and our ability to attract in-state students.

During the 2016 and 2017 academic years, [36 of the 50 states](#) found it possible not only to maintain but to increase per-student funding for higher education. During the same period, Illinois has reduced its funding for higher education or held it level. As [one of the wealthiest states](#) in the nation (a wealth attributable in part to Illinois citizens’ high education attainment rate), Illinois must not neglect its obligation to support quality public higher education at this university and at universities across the state.

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