Faculty Senate Executive Council
Resolution Calling for Review and Support for Culture-related Programs at SIUC

WHEREAS our cultural content programs (i.e., Africana Studies; Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies; Latino Studies) play a vital role on campus and in the community, in terms of both academic content and recruitment and retention of diverse faculty, staff, and students;

WHEREAS culture-related programs/departments tend to be interdisciplinary, with relatively few full-time faculty and staff, allowing little or no “infrastructure” and support for traditional academic activities, and few degrees of freedom to allow for collaboration, faculty mentoring, and course coverage for sabbaticals, medical leave, etc.;

WHEREAS there do not appear to be any mechanisms in place in the institution to provide the support needed for these programs;

WHEREAS leadership in such collective programs is especially important, and those positions have sometimes gone unfilled for extended periods of time, sometimes contrary to prior institutional commitments, due to financial concerns, lower prioritization, etc.;

WHEREAS faculty, staff, and students experience significant institutional and personal service demands that can make it difficult to fulfill the traditional requirements for academic and job outcomes (e.g., tenure, meeting deadlines);

WHEREAS the content and the membership of those programs have been and continue to be targeted and/or marginalized, either intentionally or unintentionally, by individuals in the community and the institution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the university find a way to support these culture-related programs in a manner commensurate with their vital roles in the recruitment and retention of diverse students, faculty, and staff as well as their contributions to the academic mission and campus climate.