

Resolution Opposing the Elimination of All Academic Departments

1. WHEREAS faculty are committed to change, including structural change, aimed at educating more students at SIUC, and furthering the mission of the university; and
2. WHEREAS faculty are uniquely positioned to shape the academic structures designed to further that academic mission; and
3. WHEREAS departments are based on faculty expertise, devoted to the academic disciplines and majors pursued by students, and designed to provide institutional stability to the diversity of programs suited to a diverse student body; and
4. WHEREAS the dissolution of every department on campus may sow avoidable confusion and worry among both undergraduate and graduate students about the future of their majors and degrees; and
5. WHEREAS potential students and faculty will doubt the stability of programs lacking the institutional status of departments, and question the stability of a university that appears to lack the resources to support departments; and
6. WHEREAS the chancellor is on record at the November 7 Faculty Senate meeting that he knows of no other research university that has eliminated departments completely;
7. WHEREAS principles of shared governance and academic freedom are threatened when a unilateral reorganization eliminates academic units across the board without regard to the content or mission of the unit, and with no opportunity for substantive deliberation or debate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate opposes the universal elimination of all academic departments on campus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends that faculty be encouraged and allowed to pursue all productive proposals for change, including those that retain academic departments.