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Letter from ISU CHapter, American Association of University Professors

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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The Professional Status Committee of the AAUP, while appreciating the sincere efforts of the CCGR, suggests that the following resolution be presented for action at the next meeting of the ISU Chapter of the AAUP.

Whereas, the Academic Senate with the assistance of the Committee on Constitutional and Governance Review (CCGR) brought the Illinois State University Constitution into technical compliance with the current Bylaws of the Board of Regents in September 1973; and

Whereas, the proposals of the CCGR for a new university governance system appear unworkably complex and jurisdictionally confusing; and

Whereas, the CCGR proposals instead of producing the intended, and theoretically laudable, effect of "democratizing" the University are apparently "politicizing" the University; and

Whereas, constituent groups of the University such as the Civil Service Council, the Student Association, the Association of Residence Halls, and the Executive Assistants Committee (or any other formal or informal constituent group) have or can attempt to establish alternative representational structures by direct negotiation with the University Administration; and

Whereas, the University is presently in the process of recovering from serious problems of reorganization and should avoid confusion as well as diffusion of faculty input in its governing system; and

Whereas, the Academic Senate, in the final analysis, stands primarily in an advisory capacity to the University Administration and the Board of Regents; therefore

Let it be resolved that the Illinois State University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors hereby:

1) Considers the current technically-amended ISU Constitution and Academic Senate adequate vehicles for governance and representation at Illinois State University for the present time; and

2) Does not oppose the continuation, modification, or creation of representational bodies and/or systems for other purposes or constituents within the University, and

3) Expresses the sentiment that the Academic Senate be given a vote of confidence and a reasonable opportunity to test the viability of the revised ISU Constitution before drastic, questionable, and irreversible changes in the academic governance system are politically negotiated; and

4) Requests that the Senate consider adopting this resolution as a substitute for any proposals to modify the ISU Constitution or Academic Senate at this time.