

President's Message

Michael Harkins
President, Illinois AAUP



Last April 2017, Columbia College Chicago hosted our Spring AAUP Conference. The keynote speaker, Brian Turner, Chair of the Assembly of State Conferences, outlined the role of the ASC and the importance of state conferences. Brian stressed the role state conferences play in maintaining and strengthening academic freedom, shared governance and tenure in a very active manner. Rima Kapitan of Kapitan Law Offices presented a session outlining the role faculty handbooks play in protecting academic freedom and due process. Diana Vallera of Columbia College led a panel discussion focusing on resistance within academia – to protect faculty rights. These sessions highlighted the continued need for our members to protect our profession through actively participating in local AAUP chapters, state conferences and with the national office. Engaged chapters are critical to the principles of AAUP.

Over the past two years board members Leo Welch and Linda Brookhart have followed the State of Illinois budget crisis and its impact on higher education. In future issues they will report on the impact of this crisis on faculty, students and higher education institutions. The State Conference received numerous phone calls, emails, and letters from our colleagues who vividly explained the impact and damage this state crisis caused in Illinois higher education. In early 2018, a series of workshops will be presented by the State Conference to help faculty as a result of this crisis. Alan Iliff, Conference Treasurer and board member, will post time and locations of the workshops on our website. The topics for the workshop will include faculty workload, faculty evaluations, Title IX changes, free speech on campus, Pathways in Higher Education and protecting faculty rights. The State Conference is committed to supporting faculty with meaningful professional development workshops.

Our Spring 2018 Illinois AAUP Conference will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at the Robert M. Healey Conference Center in Westmont, Illinois. The Center is located at 500 Oakmont Lane in Westmont. The Conference theme for Spring 2018 is “Protecting our Faculty Rights: Academic Freedom, Shared Governance and Tenure.” Faculty planning to attend should register (for free) with the Conference Secretary Diana Vallera (diana@studioera2.com), no later than April 16, 2018.

Coffee and rolls will be available at 8 am. The Conference starts at 9 am. The Illinois Conference AAUP website will post the details of the topics and presenters early in 2018. Questions can be directed to the Conference officers at their home institutions. In closing, I encourage faculty members in Illinois who do not have a chapter of AAUP to start one. Existing Chapters need to be active. Contact the State Conference and National to help with starting a Chapter or enhancing an existing one. Together we must stay active and vigilant to not only maintain but improve faculty rights for all of us.

Illinois AAUP Annual Meeting, 9am Sat. April 21, 2018
Healey Conference Center, 500 Oakmont Lane, Westmont, IL

Call for Nominations

Illinois AAUP officers, council and delegates to the national meeting: See page 2

THE MULTI MILLION DOLLAR HEAD FAKE

An investigative exposé about the financing of UI athletics

READ THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT, page 5

American Association of
University Professors of Illinois
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Illinois conference of the American Association of University Professors FALL 2017 ilaaup.org

The Death Spiral of Illinois Public Higher Education — and How Not to Fix It

By Leo Welch, Legislative Officer, IL AAUP

Two Republican lawmakers in Illinois have introduced bills (HB 4103 and SB 2234) that they claim will save Illinois higher education from itself. They are Rep. Dan Brady, Bloomington, and Sen. Chapin Rose, Mahomet. Their bills will amend the Board of Higher Education Act. Although the stated intent of this Act will “protect quality; reduce duplication, redundancy, and inefficiency; protect ranked programs (and possibly eliminate others); and ensure that Illinois is prioritizing tax dollars to protect its higher education and eliminate its weaknesses,” the reality for most of the act is just the opposite. The other stated intent of the Act is to ensure that Illinois maintains a highly educated, skilled workforce.

Brady and Rose cite the decline in enrollment in most of the Illinois public universities and public community colleges and promote their proposed bills as a way to reverse the flow of Illinois students to other states. The lawmakers ignore the fact that Illinois ranks last in all states in per student expenditures.

The proposed legislation involves six amendments to the Board of Higher Education Act briefly summarized as follows:

- Uniform Admissions

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) shall establish a uniform online admission process which will be used for all public higher education institutions. It is not clear whether this admission process is for just the 12 public universities or also for the 48 public community colleges as well. If a public university rejects an application, the student will be offered admission to another public university. If all public universities redirect the applicant, the applicant will be referred to a community college.

- Automatic Admission

Any high school student with a 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) or better on a 4.0 scale shall guarantee admission to a public university. Students with less than a 3.0 GPA will be deferred to a community college.

- Strategic Centers of Excellence

The IBHE shall conduct a survey of all public universities that evaluates the departmental quality of each academic department. The IBHE then will rank each academic program in relation to similar programs at other campuses. For example, the English Departments in the colleges and universities will be ranked from 1 through 12. Any departments not ranked in the top eight could be eliminated by the IBHE if it found that the department is not viable.

- Program Expansion and New Programs

The IBHE shall determine whether an expansion or development of a new program meets the needs of Illinois. Before a program is expanded or developed, the university would have to demonstrate that the program would cost less than an existing program elsewhere in the State of Illinois. This component of the Act will also require the university to demonstrate that work force demands exist for each program expansion or new program.

- Student Financial Aid Study

The IBHE shall study the opportunity for merit-based financial aid to be completed by January 1, 2019. This merit-based financial support will come within the existing budget of the respective public institutions of higher education with no new money from the state. The General Assembly, however, could determine other ways to pay for a merit-based financial aid program. There is no mention of need-based student financial aid.

- Multi-Year Budgeting Study

The IBHE shall study the concept of multi-year budgeting, as opposed to the current one-year budgeting. Multi-year budgeting would allow for more efficient planning and bring stability and security to the public institutions of higher education. The results of the study shall also be provided to the General Assembly no later than January 1, 2019.

- Summary Critique

This proposed legislation appears to focus on Illinois public universities with little reference to Illinois public community colleges or to the Illinois Community College Board and their reports and recommendations to the General Assembly. When or how do the public community colleges get involved with their recommendations to the General Assembly?

- Admissions

This proposed legislation would direct students with a “B” average to the universities, and the “leftovers” would be directed to community colleges. There are numerous reasons that a student may choose to start at a university or a community college and a “B” average is just one factor. This admission policy is too simplistic.

THE DEATH SPIRAL OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC COLLEGES continued on page 3



Rep. Dan Brady and Sen. Chapin Rose

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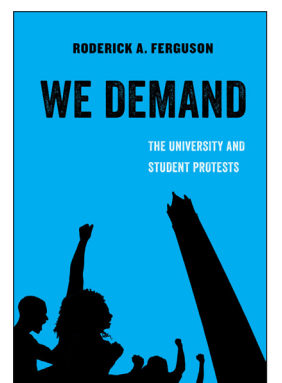
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Illinois Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure Report

By Peter N. Kirstein, chair of Illinois AAUP Committee A

The Illinois Conference thanks the courage and leadership of Robin Meade who fought for adjunct rights at Moraine Valley Community College. She won a variety of legal actions but has decided to leave academia. She was a great member of Illinois Committee A and we thank her for her service. Michael Harkins, president of the conference, has graciously agreed to serve on Illinois Committee A. We are looking for another volunteer, and especially encourage women to apply at kirstein@sxu.edu.

For the second consecutive year at the 2017 AAUP annual meeting, the Association recommended the removal of censure from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Censured in 2015 for firing Steven Salaita, a tenured faculty member, who tweeted protest of Israeli bombing in Gaza, Illinois Committee A unanimously opposed removal of censure, and endorsed this statement that was read at the annual meeting in Washington, D.C. At no time did the rulers of the AAUP seek comment or input from the Illinois Conference. They even passed out a statement from the UIUC AAUP chapter in favour of censure removal, but never consulted the conference which was the first to condemn Salaita's firing. The AAUP removed censure from the University of Illinois in June, 2017. Hopefully the next real history of the Association will include this egregious action. Illinois Committee A acknowledges the articulate and intrepid support against censure removal by John K. Wilson, editor of Illinois Academe and an alumnus of the U of I.

This is the statement from the Illinois AAUP Committee A that reflects a commitment to academic freedom that is supposedly endorsed by the AAUP:

Illinois Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure strongly opposes the lifting of censure of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. On August 6, 2014, Illinois Committee A was the first to condemn this assault on academic freedom, and denounced the arbitrary and capricious firing of Steven Salaita, a tenured associate professor, for using his Twitter feed to denounce the indiscriminate mass-killing of non-combatants in Gaza.

We call for a public apology on the part of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for this appalling termination of a signed contract. We do not believe a mere statement, that has not been publicly disseminated, in support of academic freedom from the University of Illinois can be taken seriously. When Professor Salaita and other job seekers were offered contracts, their packet included the iconic AAUP 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure and the Statement on Professional Ethics. Such hypocrisy then, without more substantive changes now, confirms the University of Illinois has learned very little about adhering to AAUP

principles and procedures.

We do not believe the Board of Trustees' approval of faculty hires, before a semester begins, is a significant reform. The latter would not have helped Dr. Salaita, who early on resigned from a tenured position at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. There should be a very short interval between a contract offer and a governing board's approval. Perhaps, two to three weeks at most.

Illinois Committee A demands the full restoration of the American Indian Studies Program now! The AAUP must not remain silent. A university must not, with impunity, destroy an academic program because of a controversial, idealistic professor. There are no core faculty, only affiliate faculty. The interim director is not a Native-American area specialist but a Latino, African-American, and baseball scholar. The website tersely states a director's statement is "coming soon."

It was the NCAA in 2007 and not the AAUP censure in 2015 that compelled some reform at the U of I. Although there are still rogue, student mascots showing up at athletic events, the NCAA threatened to withhold any post-season venues on the UIUC campus unless the "hostile and abusive" mascot Chief Illiniwek was formally retired. Yet the continuing war on Native-American culture and studies, from the demeaning chief to the evisceration of the American-Indian Studies Program demands censure.

Settlements are not enough. Tenured positions remain elusive. Professor Salaita in a June 5, 2017 e-mail, stated he is leaving the American University of Beirut and has not secured an academic appointment. Health care and retirement packages are not continuous; reputations remain unfairly damaged. It is a temporary fix; a bridge to nowhere. Norman Finkelstein settled at DePaul University, and the AAUP walked away from the most significant tenure-denial case since the McCarthy Era. We believe UIUC has not demonstrated clear and convincing evidence that it will adhere to AAUP principles and policies.

This year is the fiftieth anniversary of *Keyishian v Board of Regents* (1967). We reject a "pall of orthodoxy over" the University of Illinois. Illinois Committee A believes the removal of censure is an existential threat to academic freedom and tenure not only at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, but also the entire academy.

Peter N. Kirstein, Vice President and Chair Illinois Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AAUP), Saint Xavier University
Iymen Chehade, Columbia College Chicago
Alan Ilif, North Park University
Robin Meade, Triton College

National AAUP Annual Meeting Resolution on Illinois Higher Education

The following resolution, introduced by the Illinois AAUP conference, was passed unanimously by AAUP members at the National AAUP meeting on June 17, 2017.

The 103rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of University Professors expresses its deep concern about the enormous state budget problems that have devastated higher education in Illinois. For three years, Illinois has failed to pass a bud-

get. Although Illinois' political failures have harmed many individuals and institutions in the state, colleges and universities have suffered some of the biggest blows, affecting students, faculty, and staff at all levels.

Private and public colleges are imperiled by the loss of student financial aid grants, and these unprecedented budget cuts. General Fund appropriations for higher education fell from \$1.95 billion in fiscal year

(FY) 2015 to \$755 million in FY2016 and \$843 million in FY2017. Even without adjusting for inflation, Illinois is spending less today on higher education than it did in 2000, and per-student higher education funding has been cut by 54 percent since 2008. Colleges around Illinois have raised tuition, cut staff jobs and faculty positions, and imposed furloughs and temporary shutdowns. Students are fleeing Illinois, and

faculty and staff are losing their jobs because of a political dispute.

The budget impasse began with Governor Bruce Rauner, who demanded approval of his "Turnaround Agenda" that included denying workers the right to choose a union. Although there are other politicians to blame in Illinois, the problem started with Gov. Rauner, and he should have ended the damage to higher education long ago.

Illinois Student Loan Bill of Rights Enacted After Override of Gov. Rauner's Veto

On Nov. 7, the Illinois General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to override Gov. Bruce Rauner's veto and enact a bill of rights for student borrowers (SB 1351). The Illinois Student Loan Bill of Rights was drafted by the office of Attorney General Lisa Madigan and sponsored by Sen. Daniel Biss and Rep. Will Guzzardi after Madigan's investigation and lawsuit against Navient (one of the country's largest

student loan servicing companies) found serious abuses and failures. The bill of rights will try to prevent borrowers from being misled or ignored by the companies that service their loans. It will require companies to properly process payments and inform borrowers when loans can be forgiven because of disabilities or problems with the college they attended, and explain to borrowers all of their repayment

options.

Guzzardi declared, "we took decisive action to override the Governor's wrong-headed veto and protect student borrowers in this state." Madigan said, "The Student Loan Bill of Rights will ensure that borrowers receive the necessary information to handle repayment of their student loans in a financially responsible manner."

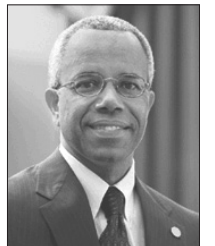
Al Bowman Appointed Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education

Al Bowman, president emeritus of Illinois State University (2003-13), has been appointed as the new executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). Tom Cross, IBHE Chair, said: "The Board is pleased Dr. Bowman has accepted our request that he take the helm of the IBHE at this time. He is an exemplary role model of a college educated Illinoisan, who

earned a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, a master's degree from Eastern Illinois University, and an undergraduate degree from Augustana College. His entire career in higher education has been carried out in Illinois, starting in 1978 as a member of the faculty at ISU."

Bowman plans to address the Illinois college enrollment crisis. According to the IBHE, "The Board is cur-

rently engaged in a strategic process updating the Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success, and Dr. Bowman is being asked to lead the stakeholder engagement activities over the next several months resulting in a new plan looking forward from 2018."



Nominations Invited for 2018 Election of the AAUP Illinois Conference

To AAUP Members:

The Illinois Conference Nominating Committee seeks nominations for candidates for election to the AAUP's Officers and Executive Committee. Nominations are due now.

The conference is responsible for overseeing the affairs of the AAUP, including setting dues, overseeing finances, establishing standing committees, and promoting the exchange of ideas among the membership, leadership and staff. The conference generally meets in person twice a year usually in the Chicago area. Between those meetings the conference conducts business via frequent e-mail discussions and conference calls.

All members of the AAUP in good standing, with the

exception of associate members, are eligible to be elected to conference positions and to nominate other eligible members. The committee seeks a diverse group of candidates with experience in the AAUP at the local, state, or national level.

Positions that are open for election to two-year terms are:

1. President
2. First vice president

Positions that are open for election to three-year terms are:

1. Executive committee member

If you wish to nominate yourself as a candidate for an of-

fice or conference position OR to nominate another eligible member, you must submit the following information to the Nominating Committee by March 12, 2018:

1. The position for which the individual is being nominated
2. The name, institution and e-mail address of the individual being nominated
3. The name, institution and e-mail address of the individual making the nomination (if not a self nomination)

Please send nominations by e-mail or by regular mail to: Leo Welch (Leo.welch@swic.edu or lk-welch@att.net), Southwestern Illinois College 2500 Carlyle Avenue, Belleville, IL 62221, 618-632-0079.

Nominations Invited for AAUP Illinois Conference Delegates to 2018 National AAUP Meeting

The Illinois Conference of the AAUP seeks the nomination of members in good standing as Delegates or Alternates to both the National meeting and the Association of State Conferences meeting held June 14-17, 2018, in Arlington, Virginia. The Illinois Conference may elect up to two Delegates and two Alternate Delegates to this Annual Meeting as well as four Delegates and two Alternates to

the Assembly of State Conferences (ASC). Illinois members of the AAUP who wish to offer nominations or self-nominate should forward these nominations to Leo Welch, Illinois Conference AAUP, 14 Treetop Lane, O'Fallon, IL 62669, or to lk-welch@att.net. All nominations are due to the Illinois Conference of AAUP by midnight March 12, 2018. Nominations should include the name, institution,

Delegate position sought (either National meeting Delegate or National meeting Alternate or ASC Delegate or ASC Alternate), and email address of the individual nominated. All delegates should be members in good standing of AAUP, register and attend the meeting in June. If an election is needed for Delegates, it will be held by secret mail ballot after nominations close on March 12, 2018.

Illinois Legislative Report By Leo Welch

Uniform admissions: HB 230 (Thapedi) creates the Public University Uniform Admission Act to require each public university in this State to admit first-time freshman applicants as undergraduate students if the applicant graduated with a grade point average in the top 10 percent of the student's high school graduating class in one of the two school years preceding the academic year for which the applicant is applying for admission and (1) the applicant graduate from an accredited public or private high school in this State or from a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense; (2) the applicant successfully completed the minimum college preparatory curriculum requirements for admission to the university or satisfied the ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT college admission assessment applicable to the applicant or earned on the SAT college admission assessment a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400; and (3) if the applicant graduated from a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense, the applicant is a State resident or is entitled to pay tuition fees at the rate provided for State residents. The bill also provides that the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is not required to offer admission to applicants who qualify for automatic admission in excess of the number required to fill 75 percent of the university's enrollment capacity designated for first-time resident undergraduate students in an academic year. The bill requires ISAC to develop and implement a program to increase and enhance efforts of institutions in conducting outreach to academically high-performing high school seniors in the State who are likely eligible for automatic admission under the Act. IBHE opposes this legislation. Referred to Rules Committee.

College Affordability Act: HB 1316 (Lang/McGuire) requires IBHE to establish and administer an Illinois Excellence Program to incentivize the recruitment and retention of promising faculty throughout the Illinois system of higher education. The bill also requires ISAC to implement and administer a program beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year to award College Affordability grants to certain Illinois residents who have graduated from an approved high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and are seeking a degree from a public institution of higher education. HB 1316 goes on to set forth the terms and conditions of the program, including requiring a two-year residency obligation following termination of the academic program and requiring students awarded grants under the program to participate in a student loan counseling program through ISAC, as well as the grant amount. It further requires ISAC to implement and administer a program in which ISAC shall award work-study stipends to applicants who are grant recipients and who agree to work for 5 to 15 hours per week

as peer mentors or tutors for other grant recipients. Lastly, HB 1316 requires ISAC to implement and administer a program in which ISAC shall buy-out the private student loans of any eligible participants and sets forth eligibility requirements. The bill amends the State Finance Act to create the special funds created herein. The programs of this bill are all subject to appropriation, which, according to ISAC, would require at least \$300 million to implement. IBHE joined with ISAC in opposing the bill. HB 1316 passed the House and is in the Senate Assignments Committee.

Credit for Prior Learning Act: HB 2404 (Willis/Rose) would create the Credit for Prior Learning Act and require each public university to submit its policies and procedures for students to earn credit for prior learning to IBHE and each community college to submit its policies and procedures for students to earn credit for prior learning to ICCB. At a minimum, these procedures shall include a listing of the types of documentation acceptable and the dates of inclusion for which prior learning is acceptable. The bills also require IBHE and ICCB to adopt rules to permit public higher education institutions to award credit for prior learning after the assessment of prior learning experiences for documented learning that demonstrates achievement of all terminal objectives for a specific course or courses. Public Act 100-0261.

Adult Diploma: HB 2527 (Sosnowski/Stadelman) authorizes a public community college district or non-profit entity in partnership with a regional superintendent of schools, the chief administrator of an intermediate service, or a school district to design a high school diploma program for adult learners. To be eligible the entity must demonstrate that it has been unable to establish an agreement with a secondary or unit school district to provide the program. The program must be approved by ICCB according to approval guidelines established in the bill. Public Act 100-0514.

Assisting veterans in higher education: Legislation to implement recommendations of the Illinois Taskforce on Veterans' Suicide is reflected in HB 2647 (Kifowit/Cullteron, T.). This bill contains provisions that the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, in coordination with institutions of higher education, shall provide proactive outreach as part of an educational success program for veterans experiencing difficulties in higher education. Public Act 100-0482.

High school equivalency alternative credentialing: HB 2740 (Welch/Rezin) provides that ICCB shall establish alternative methods of credentialing for the issuance of high school equivalency certification. Allows ICCB to offer the credentialing on or after January 1, 2018, based on high school credit, post-secondary credit, foreign diplomas, and completion of a competency-based program as approved by ICCB. This legislation implements the recommenda-

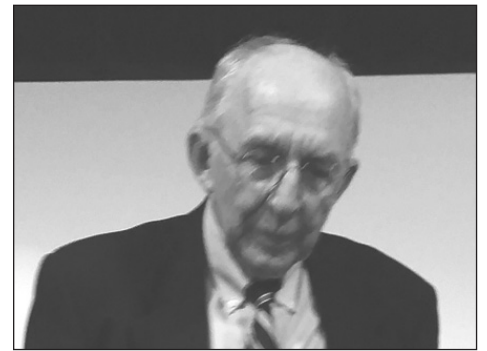
tions of the Alternative Credentialing Methods Taskforce approved by ICCB on January 20, 2017. Public Act 100-0130.

Dual-Credit/Dual-Enrollment Notification: HB 2724 (Ford/Martinez) requires high schools to inform all 11th and 12th grade students of dual enrollment and dual credit opportunities at public community colleges for qualified students. This bill has passed both houses. HB 3601 (Greenwood/Clayborne) provides that East St. Louis School District 189 is encouraged to allow students in grades 11 and 12 to take classes at Southwestern Illinois College for dual credit at no cost to the student. Public Act 100-0133.

Vacancies on community college boards: HB 3091 (Bourne/Manar) amends the Illinois Public Community College Act to address deficiencies in the law as it pertains to vacancy on a local community college board of trustees. The bills provide that when a vacancy occurs in a community college board, the elected successor shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term. Community college trustees are elected to 6-year terms. The bills also provide that the vice-chairman shall perform the duties of chairman if there is a vacancy in the office of the chairman or in case of the chairman's absence or inability to act. If there is a vacancy in the office of the chairman and vice-chairman, a chairman pro tempore shall be appointed. Public Act 100-0273.

Educational Credit for Military Experience Act: HB 3701 (Greenwood/Clayborne) creates the Educational Credit for Military Experience Act to provide that before June 1, 2018, each institution of higher education shall adopt a policy to award academic credit for military training applicable to the student's certificate or degree requirements. Requires the policy to apply to any individual who is enrolled in the institution of higher education and who has completed a military training course that meets certain requirements. Provides that institutions of higher education shall develop procedures for evaluating courses and awarding credit. Requires institutions of higher education to submit their policies for awarding credit to IBHE and ICCB for review before June 30, 2018, and before June 30 of every other year thereafter. Requires IBHE to collect data in the Illinois Higher Education Information System on students who are veterans or have military service to assess enrollment and completions outcomes. This legislation implements the recommendations of the Military Prior Learning Assessment Task Force. Public Act 100-0195.

Community colleges BSN degree authority: SB 888 (Manar) allows a board of trustees of a community college district to establish and offer a baccalaureate-level nursing education program and confer a bachelor of science degree in nursing upon the meeting of specified conditions. It also requires approval of both ICCB and IBHE. The number of programs that may be ap-



proved is limited to 20 until August 31, 2022. The bill also requires ICCB to conduct a statewide evaluation of nursing programs established under the provisions and report on the results of the evaluation by July 1, 2022. There were amendments filed to the bill to try to garner support, including limiting the programs to 11 community colleges and 7,000 students over the next five years, but none advanced out of committee. IBHE opposes the legislation. The sponsor opted not to move the bill.

Modification of the Career & Workforce Transitions Act: SB 1563 (Clayborne/Ammons) amends the Career and Workforce Transition Act to provide that a public community college district may accept credits as direct equivalent credits or prior learning credits, as determined by the district and consistent with the accrediting standards and institutional and residency requirements of ICCB, the Higher Learning Commission, other State and national accreditors, and State licensing bodies, as appropriate. The legislation requires that, beginning with applications submitted in 2017, an institution must submit its application for approval to ICCB on or before July 1 of a given year and ICCB must render its approval decision on or before September 15 of that same year. ICCB must also post on its website a list of all institutions that have received approval, beginning on January 5, 2018. Finally, the legislation provides for an appeals process for all decisions of ICCB that result in non-approval of an institution. The legislation was introduced to provide clarity and guidance to ICCB in response to the delay in adopting administrative rules. The bill was approved in the House with amendments and is currently awaiting concurrence in the Senate.

Underrepresented Groups in Academia: HJR 2 (Thapedi/Harris) creates the Underrepresented Groups in Academia Task Force within IBHE to examine strategies to grow underrepresented groups in institutions of higher education and to ascertain the viability of increasing the number of laboratory schools in the State and creating State-owned and operated trade schools. Resolution adopted by both houses.

Write to Illinois Academe
Illinois Academe seeks articles, opinion pieces, chapter news, announcements, and letters to the editor. Send email to Illinois Academe editor John K. Wilson at collegefreedom@yahoo.com.

The Death Spiral of Illinois Public Colleges CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The utilization of online and uniform admission procedure has some merit. It remains to be seen if the IBHE can develop a document that provides appropriate information for all of the various programs that exist in 12 universities and 48 community colleges.

- Strategic Centers of Excellence

The "Center for Excellence" amendment appears to be a cover for elimination of programs at selected universities. Only 8 out of 12 programs will be considered "safe" and the remaining four may be terminated by the new power of the IBHE. There is no mention of community colleges in this proposal. I assume community colleges will be a later target. John Jackson, a visiting political science professor at the Paul Simon Institute at Southern Illinois University has stated, "That one's a perfectly terrible idea." He also states, "It's not at all clear what are the reliable and valid ways to rank departments."

- Program Expansion and New Programs

Program expansion or new programs will remain under

control of the IBHE and driven by work force demands. One outcome of these criteria will be the vocationalization of higher education at the expense of humanities programs. These criteria could limit innovation. For example, the development of computers resulted from research and development by mathematicians. There was no work force demand for computer expertise before computers existed. Finally, there is no mention of the role of faculty in these program decisions. Are the IBHE staff members experts in all academic disciplines? History shows that innovation comes from individuals not bureaucrats. How many Nobel Prizes have been awarded to bureaucrats?

- Student Financial Aid Study

Student financial aid in the form of merit-based funding should be supported, but the question remains as to where the money will come from and whether Need-based funding would be reduced.

- Multi-year Budgeting Study

Multi-year budgeting might gain wide support from ac-

ademe if the General Assembly would institute multi-year funding. The failure of the General Assembly to generate their own budget over a two-year period should not raise hopes that multi-year funding for education will happen any time soon. The failure of the General Assembly to create their own budget was a disaster for Illinois higher education and was a major factor in students leaving Illinois.

This legislation will shift power from individual Illinois colleges and universities to the IBHE. Currently the IBHE has neither the time, the staff, nor the expertise to do the work that this legislation requires. The IBHE would have to create another layer of administrative, bureaucratic decision makers who take control critical decisions about Illinois Higher Education away from Illinois colleges and universities.

Funding for Illinois higher education has declined since FY 2002 and continues to decline. Possibly Senator Rose and Representative Brady should make higher education funding a priority rather than these proposals.

Interview: *We Demand*

Roderick A. Ferguson is faculty in the Department of African American Studies and the Gender and Women's Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is the co-director of the Racialized Body research cluster at UIC. In 2018-19, he will serve as president of the American Studies Association. Illinois Academe editor John K. Wilson interviewed him via email about his new book, *We Demand: The University and Student Protests* (University of California Press, 2017).

Q: A recent survey of students found that 28% of Democrats and 60% of Republicans agree with the idea that they should not have to walk past student protests on campus. Do you think the right to protest is endangered on campus, and who poses the greatest threats to it?

RF: After the police and National Guard killed student protesters at Jackson State and Kent State in 1970, President Richard Nixon convened the President's Commission on Campus Unrest. The commission issued a report entitled "The Report of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest." Despite the fact that the police and National Guard killed protesters unjustifiably, the report was designed to frame student activists (rather than the extraordinary use of police powers) as the problem. Nixon's report exhorted college and university administrations to get in control of student activism through the development of diversity offices and campus security. A year after the Nixon report, the soon-to-be Supreme Court justice Louis Powell wrote a secret memorandum to the private entity known as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The memorandum was called "Attack on the American Free Enterprise System." It warned business leaders that the "free enterprise system" was being assaulted throughout U.S. society and identified college campuses as one of the places where the assault was taking place, mainly through leftist students and faculty members. The Powell Memorandum then provides step-by-step recommendations for how business leaders could manage and suppress the appeal of progressive faculty and students. So the right to protest and even the right to engage in certain kinds of critique have been endangered for quite a while. The kinds of alliances between university administration, politicians, and corporate leaders that I write about in *We Demand* are actually the greatest threats to the right to protest.

Q: Critics sometimes worry that division and conflict on college campuses today is worse than ever. Do you think that they forget just how violent and angry some of the 1960s protests were (and how violent and repressive many of the reactions to protest were), or do you believe that campuses today are actually deeply divided with conflicts and that's a bad thing?

RF: I don't know that people have forgotten the violence and anger of the 1960s. What has not been con-

fronted in this country with real deliberation is the will to confront the very problems that student protesters were identifying in the sixties. Campus activism has been effectively constructed as a social nuisance rather than an expression of people trying to grapple with issues that bedevil the society. This society is divided with conflicts. To the extent that campus activism attempts to shed light on those conflicts and how they impact places like the university, those protests are performing an enormous civic good. Rather than presume that campus protests are the public expressions of unfounded grouses by spoiled students, we need to ask what are the social and structural referents for those protests. In many ways, constructing students as spoiled and ungrateful obstructionists or criminals who have to be forcibly subdued prevents us from getting at the material cause of their activism. If we look back at the Nixon and Powell documents, that strategy seemed to be intentional.

Q: In the 1960s, a big issue for administrators was whether to call in the local police. Now, colleges have massive police departments, and can spend half a million on policing for one event. Is this a militarization of campuses, and how has it changed protests and the campus response to them?

RF: When dozens of college administrators lobbied their legislators, after Kent and Jackson State, to establish campus police departments, they were effectively asserting that the police are the effective means of engaging campus activism. In many ways, we live in the world that this campaign wrought. The Nixon report explicitly advocates that each campus have a police force that fits that campus's particular needs given its size and composition. It also advocates that each campus security office have a healthy relationship with the local police force. In a moment in which large college campuses have well-endowed campus security offices, in a moment in which local police forces are equipped with military style weapons, and within an ideological environment in which campus protesters are understood as nuisances and criminals, the situation can easily become militarized. There's already a militarization of police within the U.S. in terms of not only weapons but also in terms of how folks from people of color and immigrant neighborhoods are regarded as enemies within. That is of a piece with how student activists—as well as people of color in general—are regarded on college campuses.

Q: How has the reaction from college administrators to protest changed over time, and what do you think they should do differently in responding to student protests today?

RODERICK A. FERGUSON

WE DEMAND

THE UNIVERSITY AND
STUDENT PROTESTS



RF: Looking at President Nixon's report I don't know that administrators have changed really. In many ways, today's administrators seem to be the fulfillment of the visions that were laid out by the Nixon report and the Powell memorandum. What seems to have "changed" is the move to an almost outright prohibition of protest. Take for instance, the recent policies that the University of Wisconsin and Northwestern University just produced on "disruptions" and "demonstrations." The activists who are charged with disruption are faced with suspension and expulsion for disrupting regularly scheduled events, for obstructing movement around campus, for obstructing views using placards, banners, and signs. In other words, policies such as these outlaw the very strategies and tactics that constitute protest in the first place. With regard to the policy in Wisconsin, there's an obvious line between that policy and Governor Scott Walker's administration. So, what should college administrators do differently in responding to student protests? The conscientious few should work to establish institutional cultures that can produce an informed and unshrinking stratum of administrators, one that trains people to have the moral courage to refuse the influence and enticements of internal and external entities that aim to suppress academic freedom as well as the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the constitution.



Roderick Ferguson

University of Chicago Graduate Students Vote for Union

The University of Chicago Graduate Students United, which has been organizing since 2007, voted 1103-479 on October 17 & 18, 2017 in support of the union jointly affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, the Illinois Federation of Teachers and the American Association of University Professors. The Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) had ruled on August 8 to hold the vote, which the U of Chicago administration has long opposed. Before the vote, University of Chicago faculty: Yali Amit, Professor of Statistics; Anton Ford, Associate Professor of Philosophy; Elaine Hadley, Professor of English; and Denis Hirschfeldt, Professor of Mathematics, wrote this essay:

Robert Zimmer, President of the University of Chicago, is fond of touting his institution's commitment to free expression. He recently described his university as "built on the ideals of open discourse, intense and challenging inquiry and analysis, and diversity of perspectives." To those of us who study and teach there, these familiar bromides—intended both to flatter us and, more importantly, to impress wealthy donors—have never sounded emptier than they do today, in the midst of a campaign by Zimmer's administration

to prevent graduate student workers from voting on whether to unionize.

Whether graduate student workers are well-advised to unionize is a controversial question. What is uncontroversial is that Zimmer's administration has done everything within its power to prevent that question from being debated. All its pious talk about "open discourse," "challenging inquiry" and "diversity of perspectives" is suddenly forgotten when the controversy concerns the university itself.

Since 2016, when the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) affirmed that graduate student workers at private institutions have the right to unionize, the University of Chicago has mobilized its prodigious resources to prevent the formation of a union. Among other things, it has held our university community captive to its point of view with a barrage of emails through lists over which it has sole control. When students and faculty with opposing views requested access to those lists, access was denied. Such is the University of Chicago's commitment to free speech.

Another example is the university's newly-launched anti-union webpage, Know the Facts. On this webpage, "the facts" are equated with the administration's position, and "knowing" is a matter of agreeing with

that position. Under the heading Myths vs Facts, all the alleged "myths" are attributed to the union, while the corresponding "facts" are anti-union assertions made in the voice of the university. Under pressure from faculty, the administration eventually acknowledged views differing from its own. But such views are cast as "perspectives" or "advocacy"; only the administration's position is presented as "fact."

The University's plan to block debate and the democratic process was clear at NLRB Regional Office hearings where its lawyers employed delaying tactics and attempted to discredit students and faculty testifying for the union. These lawyers presented the absurd claim that graduate students—who, among other things, lead discussion sessions, manage classroom labs, meet students in office hours, grade student work, and even teach independent classes—don't perform work, aren't necessary to the University's teaching mission, and don't save time for faculty. Even worse, they enlisted respected members of the faculty to advance false and insulting claims. This process damaged the very relationship between faculty and students that the administration has claimed unionization threatens.

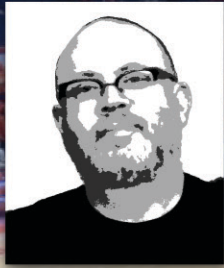


It was no surprise that the NLRB Regional Office ruled against the University. At that point the University could have let graduate student workers make up their own minds. Instead, it appealed the decision, hoping that Trump's new appointments to the NLRB will invalidate the claim that graduate students work. How ironic that the former home of President Obama, under whose administration the NLRB affirmed that graduate student workers are workers, is banking on being rescued by Trump. The University wants to stop the vote. Failing that, it wants the ballots to be impounded before being counted, so that support for unionization among students will not be documented.

Throughout this process, the university administration has tried to prevent graduate student workers from unionizing, not by advancing persuasive arguments against their unionization, but by exploiting its monopoly on the means of mass communication, and by a series of legal and political maneuvers. If it were genuinely committed to the values it professes, the administration would present its case in a forum where both sides could be heard, and would then let student employees make up their own minds. That is what education looks like. That is what free expression looks like. That is what democracy looks like.

THE MULTI MILLION DOLLAR HEAD FAKE

An investigative exposé about the financing of UI athletics



by Jay Rosenstein
www.theheadfake.org

When former University of Illinois Athletic Director Ron Guenther was earning a relatively modest \$340,000 a year in 2003, no one really paid much attention. Nor were any red flags raised when, five years later, his salary ballooned to \$600,000 a year.

After all, the public was regularly assured, UI athletics “does not use taxpayer dollars for (its) salary program.” So why would taxpayers worry about Guenther’s salary?

Maybe because of what’s happened since he retired.

Today, just six years after his retirement, former UI, Urbana Athletic Director Ron Guenther is collecting an almost unbelievable \$473,094 annual pension.

And Illinois taxpayers are paying every penny.

Guenther is not alone. A recent investigation shows that retired coaches and administrators from the athletic department at the UI’s Urbana campus cost Illinois taxpayers more than \$2.6 million per year in pensions. Add in a guaranteed three percent annual cost of living increase, and that total is almost certain to rise every year.

All from a department whose salaries we were consistently told cost the taxpayers nothing.

There are plenty of familiar names on the list of retired athletic department employees currently drawing big pensions. After Guenther, the next highest pension belongs to legendary former U of I men’s head basketball coach Lou Henson. Despite earning a relatively modest salary throughout his Illinois coaching career, Henson’s pension is currently \$347,058 per year, the 17th highest for all state university employees. That’s more than he ever made per year in salary as the head coach.

Other notable taxpayer-funded athletic pensions (all rounded to the nearest thousand) include former UI head baseball coach Richard “Itch” Jones (\$173,000), former UI assistant basketball coaches Jimmy Collins (\$200,000), Mark Coomes (\$129,000), and Richard “Dick” Nagy (\$109,000). And remember the woman who was going to put the UI women’s basketball team on the national map, the long-since departed women’s head basketball coach Theresa Greutz? You should, because we’re paying her more than \$116,000 per year.

So, how did this happen? Like all benefit-eligible U of I employees, Guenther and others in the UI athletic department are enrolled in the State Universities Retirement System, or SURS. All SURS members are required to pay 8% of their salaries into the system. That 8% contribution, plus interest, accrues in each employee’s account.

When Guenther retired in 2011, his account contained a total of \$614,647 from his contributions plus interest. By 2015 he had collected more in total pension from SURS than he had accumulated in his account.

That means from 2015 on, for the rest of his life, every pension dollar he collects now comes straight out of the pockets of Illinois taxpayers.

More than anything, it’s the huge salary increases that Guenther received at the tail end of his career that created his outsized pension. An employee’s SURS pension is based on several factors: years employed, age at retirement, and the average of the highest four consecutive years of salaries. Every time a coach or an athletic department employee’s salary goes up, their potential pension goes up too.

So, in effect, every time Guenther was handed a raise, the Illinois taxpayers were handed a bill.

Keep that in mind every time the U of I Board of Trustees approves a huge raise or bonus for another U of I coach.

While a total of more than \$2.6 million in taxpayer-funded pensions are being paid to retired U of I athletic department employees (see table below), the actual annual total is undoubtedly much higher. That’s because SURS doesn’t record information about the retiree’s former unit or department, so it’s impossible to search the SURS database to identify former athletic department employees. No doubt there are more retired athletic department members than just the eighteen below whose pensions add up to the \$2.6 million total.

This news comes at a particularly bad time for Illinois’ state universities, which saw significant losses in state funding due to the state’s two year inability to pass a budget, and even with a new state budget face an uncertain future with respect to state support. Seeing the amount of state money being used to pay Guenther’s and other retired coaches’ huge pensions, while at the same time seeing the amount of state money being used to support the U of I shrink, is sure to rankle the school’s faculty and staff, not to mention tuition-paying parents and students.

And perhaps even the Illinois taxpayers, the people who are ultimately left holding the bill.

“No Taxpayer Money” for Coaches?

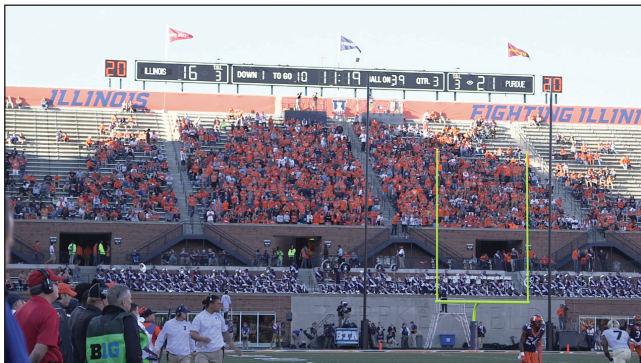
“It’s not tax money, so angry taxpayers can calm down.” That was the first reader comment posted on an on-line Chicago Tribune story.

The issue that elicited that reaction was the six-year, \$18 million contract for newly hired University of Illinois, Urbana head men’s basketball coach Brad Underwood. It’s part of a familiar ritual that happens whenever the UI hires a new high-profile coach:

“This doesn’t come out of tuition. It doesn’t come out of state funding. It’s strictly out of athletic funds,” said one UI Trustee in a newspaper story after a new coaching hire.

“Coaching contracts are covered by athletic department income, not tuition or state funds,” noted another Trustee.

“The state of Illinois does not fund coaches’ salaries,”



said an official UI spokesperson.

“Intercollegiate Athletics is self supported and does not use state funds, taxpayer dollars, or university funds for our salary program,” said an athletic department spokesperson.

It’s a narrative that’s been repeated for years, over and over, from pretty much every corner.

Except it’s not true. Not exactly.

While taxpayer money doesn’t technically go to pay the coaches’ actual “salary” lines, taxpayer money does pay for the “salary packages” for most every UI coach, trainer, and full-time athletic department staff member. That’s be-

cause UI athletic department employees are UI employees, so they receive the same “standard university benefits” as all other UI employees.

And benefits for UI employees – health, dental, etc. – are paid for by the state of Illinois. In other words, the taxpayers.

The cost isn’t exactly trivial. In 2016-17, the taxpayers’ bill for athletic department benefits was just under \$6 million, according to the UI’s Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs. And the cost of those benefits is an annual expense. Combined with the \$2.6 million pension cost for retired coaches and other retired athletic department employees (as explained in Part One of this series), the total cost to Illinois taxpayers for UI athletic department compensation packages was \$8.6 million in 2016.

“What I think it does is it undercuts the argument that tax dollars have nothing to do with athletics,” said State Senator Scott Bennett. “They certainly do.”

By picking up the cost of employee benefits for the UI athletic department, the taxpayers help to free up money for the athletic department, money it can then use to pay for other things – such as the salaries of its coaches. Those huge salaries — football coach Lovie Smith and men’s basketball coach Brad Underwood are the highest paid public employees in the state — may look very different to the public when it knows that part of the justification for those salaries, that “the state of Illinois does not fund coaches’ salaries” isn’t exactly the case.

One major factor driving up the taxpayer cost is also the growth in the number of coaches and athletic staff. It’s a trend seen nationwide, especially in the biggest programs.

“There’s so many people in an athletic department (today), it’s incredible. I mean, literally incredible,” said Rick Telander, a sports journalist who has been covering college sports for more than forty years. “There are no limits. There’s no cap.”

Like many of its peers, the UI athletic department has grown dramatically. The total number of athletic department staff, according to the university’s academic personnel books, has risen from eighty-eight in 1997, to one hundred and ninety-six in 2017. That’s a whopping one hundred and twenty three percent increase in athletic staff.

More staff costs taxpayers more money. New hires add to the total benefit costs that Illinois taxpayers have to pay. As long as TV revenue for broadcast rights continues to grow as it has, the number of athletic department employees is likely to grow with it. It’s strangely ironic that the more TV money the UI athletic department gets, the more it could actually end up costing the taxpayers.

Of course, the athletic department doesn’t have to hire more staff. The number of sports offered by the UI hasn’t changed for decades. But to keep up with its competitors, UI athletics will have to keep growing — and keep spending.

Growing means more and better facilities, more services, and ultimately, more people. More people cost more money.

For the taxpayers.

Even if we’re told otherwise.

The Athletic Fee That Isn’t There

In April of 1997, the University of Illinois, Urbana athletic department was in big trouble.

It found itself in a \$1.4 million hole, and budget projections showed that the department would continue to run that deficit each year well into the future. “What’s alarming,” said the Chancellor’s liaison to athletics at the time, “is that even under the best-case scenario, we end up with

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a deficit.”

The Board of Trustees decided that immediate action was necessary.

After much discussion, they chose a solution: a mandatory student fee for the athletic department, primarily to help pay off the debt for remodeling the football stadium five years prior. It would be the first such fee in University of Illinois, Urbana history.

“What alternatives do we have?” asked then-Trustee Tom Lamont, quoted in a Champaign News Gazette story. “I submit to you that we have none. And it is a responsibility in which students must share.”

But the students disagreed. In a student referendum held a little over a week before the Board was set to ap-

prove the fee, students voted against the new athletic fee by a landslide margin – 88% to 12%. The then-Student Body President remarked that she couldn’t recall another issue that lost by such a wide margin.

But it made little difference. Eight days later, at their regular monthly meeting, amid protests by students who packed the meeting room, the U of I Board of Trustees instituted a mandatory \$34 per semester per student fee to help balance the athletic department’s budget.

Twenty years later, that fee is still there. Illinois students are still paying it.

The budget problem that the fee was originally meant to fix has long since disappeared. Yet the fee has never been revisited by the student committee that evaluates student fees or the student government, or publicly by the university administration or the Board of Trustees. Most students aren’t even aware that they’re paying the fee, let alone what it’s for, or how it got there in the first place.

And how could they? The athletic fee doesn’t even appear by name on their university bills.

It’s virtually disappeared, buried and hiding. Except it’s still there.

The mysterious student athletic fee is just one of the findings uncovered as part of an in-depth, multi-year investigation into the way the University of Illinois, Urbana funds its athletic department.

Financial Conditions Change, But the Fee Doesn’t

The 1997 athletic fee was instituted based on projections that the UI athletic department was on an unavoidable path of constant debt. But in the ensuing years, some unexpected developments changed all that, and the fortunes of the athletic department improved dramatically.

In 2006, the UI’s athletic conference, the Big Ten, created the first television network just for an individual conference. It has proven to be a cash cow, flooding the conference’s schools with unexpected new money. Revenue to the UI athletic department has more than doubled, from \$45 million in 2004 (the first year totals are available), to just over \$96 million in 2016.

Twenty years earlier, students had predicted this possibility. In the debates leading up to the approval of the 1997 fee, according to a newspaper account, students asked the Board of Trustees for a cap on the length of time the fee would be on the books, “so that if the athletic department develops a budget surplus, the fee could be reduced or discontinued.”

Then-trustee Tom Lamont promised that the board would review athletic finances annually, and if the department ran a surplus for five years, the fee could probably be reduced. But he scoffed at that possibility. “I think it’s unrealistic to expect that we will somehow find our (athletic) budget bloated with excess revenues,” he said in the same newspaper story, labeling that scenario as “dreamland.”

But dreamland did, in fact, arrive. For nine consecutive years, from 2005 to 2013, the athletic department ran a surplus. But Mr. Lamont and the other trustees from 1997 were long gone from the Board, and any deals or promises made at the time were forgotten. The students who had protested the fee at the time were long gone too.

All that’s left is the fee. It’s still there.

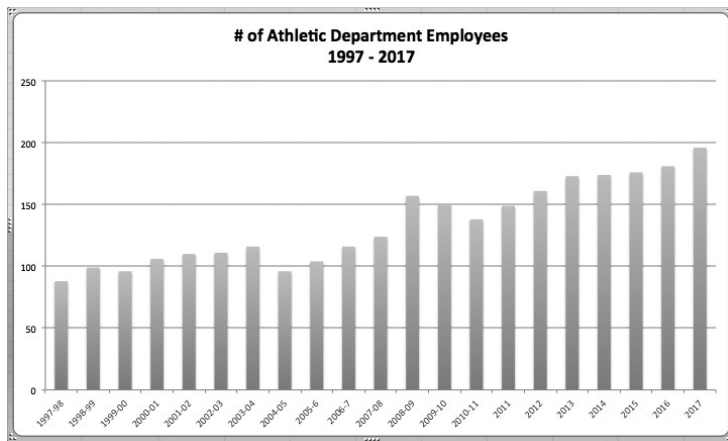
More Students, More Money

The 1997 student athletic fee was created to pay for a \$1.4 million-a-year athletic department expense for the financing of the 1992 renovation of Memorial Stadium (the football stadium), as well as some smaller remodel costs for a few other athletic buildings. Based on the number of students at the time, the Board calculated that charging

\$34 per student per semester would yield the necessary \$1.4 million total, which would, a newspaper article read, remove “that cost from the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics budget ... thus erasing its deficit.”

But a funny thing happened to the UI on the way to erasing its athletic deficit.

The student body grew, significantly. And the total amount of money collected from the \$34 per student per



it, just as they had asked. But instead, the university took the fee, and quietly, shifted it to pay for something else.

In 2006, the UI athletic department had undertaken another football stadium renovation, this one far bigger, and at \$104 million, far more expensive than the previous one. The money for this renovation would be used to build, according to the bond issue documents, “48 18-seat luxury suites, approximately 202 (premium) indoor club seats and 1,136 (premium) outdoor club seats.”

And the 1997 student fee, the one created to pay off the 1992 football stadium renovation, was now going to help pay for this new renovation.

“That ... was largely a renovation that benefited those sitting in luxury seating,” said State Senator Scott Bennett, whose district includes UI, when he learned about the fee. “So that one is particularly egregious because the people that it’s really benefiting (are the ones) who should be paying for it. Not students who are never going to see the inside of it.”

But the students did get something in the deal, other than the usual student ticket discount. In a 2013 News Gazette newspaper story, the UI associate vice president for planning and budgeting “noted that the project included a new student section at the north end of the stadium.”

Not noted was what the students gave up, or more accurately, what was taken away – the old student section, located in the stadium’s sweet spot on the fifty-yard-line. They were instead relocated behind the end zone, historically some of the most difficult seats to sell. In other words, the renovation moved the student section from the best seats in the house to some of the worst.

And the students paid, and are still paying, for that privilege.

It’s Still There?

So why hasn’t anything been done about the fee? Mitch Dickey was as deeply involved in UI issues as just about any student could be. He finished his senior year, in 2015-16, as the UI Student Body President. Certainly he would be aware of the \$34 per semester student fee for the renovations of the football stadium?

“No, I wasn’t,” he said. “(And) I’ve sat on the committees as well.”

Victor Rivera, another senior who has also served in student government, had a similar reaction. “I didn’t know this before today,” he replied. “And it’s frustrating now that I know it.”

One can forgive these students for having no knowledge of the fee. That’s because it isn’t listed in the “Tuition and Fee” section of university’s website. Nor does it appear on the students’ invoices.

The invoices sent from the U of I contain an itemized list of expenses (see below). These include charges such as tuition, housing, meal plan, etc., as well as a number of fees. But the \$34 athletic fee is nowhere to be found.

That’s because it is contained within a category called “General Fee.” And the individual expenses that make up the General Fee, such as the \$34 athletic department fee, aren’t listed.

“We don’t ... see a line item of everything, so we have no clue ... where our money is going,” said current UI senior and student government member Patricia Rodriguez.

The one place students, and the public, can find out

what the General Fee is for is on the Office of the Registrar’s section of the UI’s website. For the past several years, the explanation of the General Fee has read: “A fee to support certain fixed costs of fee-supported buildings (Activities and Recreation Center, Ice Arena, State Farm Center, Illini Union, etc.) on campus.”

There’s no mention of the football stadium, Memorial Stadium, among the list of buildings. And the buildings that are listed are ones used primarily or significantly by students, unlike the football stadium. But the description does include the word “etc.,” which means that technically the fee could be used to support pretty much any campus building.

“It upsets me because why did someone see to write it this way in the first place?” asked Pius Weibel, a parent to a then-UI student. “Why present it in a form for people to wonder, what is it?”

There is one other place where the public can find information about the UI’s student fees: the website of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, or IBHE. The IBHE has detailed lists of the student fee costs for each of the state’s public universities. It even has a specific category for disclosing the amount of athletic fees, labeled “Athletic.” The two other campuses that are part of the University of Illinois System, in Chicago and in Springfield, both list their athletic fees in that category. But on the U of I, Urbana’s list of student fees, the “Athletic” category is blank.

While not listing the fee may not seem like such a big deal, it is the difference between disclosing and not disclosing to the public that UI students are required to pay money to the athletic department. That could be particularly important when the U of I, Urbana signs a coach to a new multimillion-dollar contract, and the public wants to know where the athletic department money is coming from. As to why the “Athletic” category is blank, Robin Kaler, UI Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs answered, “I don’t know anything about the IBHE website.”

One Last Chance

Whether they know about the athletic fee or not, students do have one official venue for input about their student fees: the Student Fee Advisory Committee or SFAC. SFAC consists of a majority of student members, and a few administrative members as well. The charge of the committee is to review student fees and make recommendations for any changes to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

That sounds like the perfect venue to reassess the athletic fee. But there’s a catch. SFAC is empowered to review every fee category, except one: the General Fee category, where the athletic fee resides.

According to an email from the current Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, because the General Fee consists mostly of debt service payments, “It would be inappropriate for members of SFAC to request a reduction,” he wrote. “Not meeting our financial obligations would have a significant impact in the short and long-term, including possibly downgrading our credit rating and reducing our ability for capital financing.”

But what about the opposite scenario, the very one that has taken place, where, the number of students has grown, so the amount collected from the fee is actually producing more revenue than necessary to meet the University’s debt obligations? “If a department were to collect more

revenue than needed,” he replied in a follow-up email, “the University division within which they report would be responsible for assessing and addressing the issue.”

What that means is, in this case, it’s up to the athletic department to decide whether or not it wants to keep the extra money. But given the ever-escalating arms race for bigger and better stadiums and facilities that all big-time college athletic programs find themselves in, a return of any money is highly unlikely.

Chicago Sun-Times sportswriter Rick Telander puts it more bluntly. “There’s no amount of money that is too much for (an) athletic department. None.”

And so, the fee continues.

A New Fee Sibling

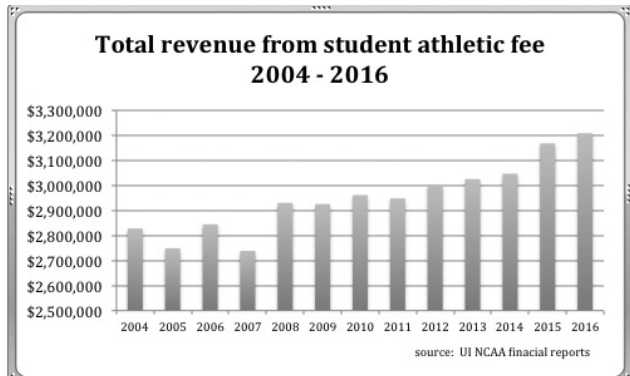
In 2014, the original student athletic fee got a new partner: a \$25 per semester student fee to help pay for a renovation of, naturally, the basketball stadium. That fee was also put to a student vote. Perhaps learning a lesson from the students’ vote against the 1997 fee, athletic department staff this time selected and trained students to lobby their

NAME	POSITION	ANNUAL PENSION (as of 2017)
Ronald E. Guenther	former athletic director	\$473,094
Lou Henson	former head basketball coach	\$347,058
Jimmy Collins	former assistant basketball coach	\$200,015
Richard Jones	former head baseball coach	\$173,543
Terry Cole	former athletic administrator	\$135,693
Dana Brenner	former assistant athletic director	\$134,079
Karol Kahrs	former assistant athletic director	\$133,248
Mark Coomes	former assistant men’s basketball coach	\$129,183
Yoshi Hayasaki	former head men’s gymnastics coach	\$126,303
Theresa Grentz	former women’s head basketball coach	\$116,859
Richard (Dick) Nagy	former assistant men’s basketball coach	\$109,098
Gary Wieneke	former head track coach	\$ 95,227
Alan Martindale	former trainer	\$ 93,976
Michael Hatfield	former associate director of development	\$ 83,407
Mark A. Johnson	former head wrestling coach	\$ 78,421
Andrew Dixon	former equipment manager	\$ 77,858
Rod Cardinal	former trainer	\$ 68,054
Don Hardin	former head volleyball coach	\$ 59,255

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fellow students for the fee, arming them with a list of talking points and nicely-produced print materials.

In a very close vote, the fee passed. Today, it too is locked safely within the walls of the General Fee, where students on the Student Fee Advisory Committee won't ever be able to touch it. Although this time, the new fee



has an expiration date – in thirty years.

The UI student athletic fees are on the lower side compared to the national average. That's because UI is a member of the country's wealthiest conference, the Big Ten, which currently subsidizes its teams to the tune of about \$40 million per year. But for some UI students already in debt — and 66% of all college seniors in the state of Illinois graduate in debt, according to a 2015 study by the non-profit Institute for College Access and Success — that's a small consolation.

"It's really frustrating because there are all of these little costs that come with going to a university like this," said current UI senior Patricia Rodriguez, a first generation college student. "For the students here who are just struggling to get by, it's really tough."

Jim Dey, a columnist for the Champaign News Gazette agrees. "Asking students to subsidize college sports is definitely a financial burden."

But the fees continue.

Will It Ever End?

Thirty years from now, will anyone remember that the 2014 \$25 student fee was supposed to sunset? Or will this fee too be shifted to pay for another athletic department expense, without anyone noticing? If past history is any indication, that's exactly what's bound to happen — unless someone can find a way to change course.

"Something that really needs to happen," says former UI Student Body President Mitch Dickey, "is, let's take a look at when these fees were created, why they were created and what ... fiscal circumstances the athletic department was in and how that has changed, and what revenue share they should be paying or putting into this."

While it might be a challenge for the UI athletic department to pick up all the expenses that students are currently paying, there's plenty of proof that it can be done. According to a 2016 USA Today report, four of the fourteen schools in the Big Ten don't charge any student fees for athletics.

One of those four is Purdue University. "A very small percentage ... of our students can actually make it on to an intercollegiate team. Fewer than two percent," said Mitch Daniels, Purdue's president. "And I don't think it's right to tax the ninety-eight percent who won't be able to play, many of whom aren't that interested, to support the (athletic) program. So we draw that line here. And we've been able to live within it."

And Purdue is able to do it even with the lowest total

ticket revenue of all Big Ten schools in 2015-16, less than UI.

"The fact of the matter is, at some point there's going to have to be a discussion," agrees State Senator Scott Bennett. "At a time when faculty and staff aren't getting raises, (when) money coming out of Springfield is less than it was before, you're trying to figure out where you make up that money. And at the same time, athletics has additional money that they did not expect ... it's a bonus, it's nicer seats, it's higher paid coaches. So I think that's going to have to be part of the discussion, whether athletics shouldn't (be allowed to) just take, but should also contribute some of this extra money."

"The fact is that money is here. And I think we have to talk about the fairest way to divide that up going forward."

That is, if anyone knows it's there.

How MAP Grants Fund Sports

Imagine this: MAP grants, money from the state given specifically to help low income students pay for college, being used to pay for building luxury boxes at the U of I's Memorial Stadium and State Farm Center.

Sound ridiculous? It's not. Because it's true. So how could this happen?

The Monetary Award Program, or MAP grants are funds provided by the state of Illinois to help the state's low-income students pay for college. It is an entirely need-based program; there are no additional qualifications other than the financial need of the students and their families.

Each year, as part of the budgeting process, the legislature determines how much total MAP money will be appropriated. The total pot of MAP money is limited — once it runs out, it's out, regardless of how many students are still in need. And as tuition and fees at UI, as well as Illinois' other public universities, have continued to rise, the need for MAP grants has grown.

"We give the money until there's no money left," said State Senator Scott Bennett, whose district includes UI, "and there's still people with their hands out (who need) that money."

But where do the luxury boxes come in?

According to Dan Mann, the director of financial aid at UI, MAP money is restricted to paying for tuition and fees. The students receive their semester bills, and "those charges are all put on an account that is in the student's name," he said.

The student's bill includes charges for all mandatory fees, which includes the General Fee. Inside the General Fee are the fees used for paying off the loans for the renovations of the football and basketball stadiums, which were used for building luxury suites and premium seating. Think of it like a Russian doll of fees, each one nested inside another.

According to Mann, the student's university bill then works just like a credit card bill. Payments don't go towards specific items; they simply lower the total amount owed. When students receive financial aid, it works just like any other payment. "The financial aid they receive is put against that account," said Mann.

So when MAP grants come in, the money is used to pay for everything — athletic stadium renovations included.

"The problem ... is, that means that money which I think everybody assumes is going toward the cost of tuition would also go in some part to those fees which include athletic facilities," said State Senator Scott Bennett. "I think that would really surprise legislators who really fight for this money."

Of course, the new suites and premium seating serve a purpose other than just allowing a few fans to sit in luxury. They also generate additional revenue through their sales. But that revenue doesn't go to the university; it all goes to athletics. Athletics then uses the additional revenue to hire more staff, pay coaches more money, and build and remodel even more facilities. Which then, they hope, generates even more revenue, all of which again goes to athletics.

And round and round it goes.

Many people argue that these improvements help the teams win more games, which in turn, they say, will produce more money for the university by way of increased donations. But that's a myth that was long ago debunked by researchers. "The studies we have on it do not sustain a clear relationship between athletic success and donations (to the institution)," said Andrew Zimbalist, a professor of sports economics at Smith College.

But there are aspects of the renovations that do provide something for the students. Everyone, students and non-students alike, shares in the enjoyment of new scoreboards, more concession stands, and in the case of the basketball stadium, new seats throughout. But in order to take advantage of those benefits, which every student is paying for, a student has to buy a ticket to a game.

In other words, students have to spend more money to get any benefit from the money they are already being forced to spend.

That creates an additional hurdle for MAP grant recipients. "If they can't pay for their own tuition, or at least they're eligible for MAP," said State Senator Scott Bennett, "they're the least likely to actually have any money to go to athletic events."

So how much MAP money are we talking about here? Calculating that is a little tricky and requires making a few assumptions. As economist Zimbalist said in a 2015 Washington Post story, it isn't as simple as saying, "when I bought my ticket to see the Maryland game, (my money) went to coaches' salary, but when you bought a ticket, it paid the tutors."

To determine how much MAP money is going toward the stadium renovations, Zimbalist recommends splitting all the expenses proportionally: whatever percentage of the student's total tuition and fee costs are going to athletic fees, that's the percentage of every MAP dollar that goes towards those fees.

Complicating the calculations further is the fact that in-state tuition is different depending on the student's major. But, skipping over the nitty-gritty math details (the more mathematically inclined will find them below*), using the numbers from 2016-17, the total amount of MAP funds that went to support athletics that year was approximately \$300,000.

Of course, you could do the same sort of calculations and detail how much MAP money is going to every other fee, and then critique those too. But there is a big difference between every other student fee and the athletic fees: the athletic fees go to pay for things that aren't primarily, if at all, for students' use.

"We're pushing for MAP grants, we're fighting for the university to keep its tuition low, and now we're saying, once you get there, you're still going to have debt that has to go to make sure the doctors in town and other people can sit in the luxury boxes," said State Senator Scott Bennett. "I think that (leaves) a bad taste in everybody's mouth."

AAUP Denounces Decision to End DACA Program

In response to President Donald Trump's decision to eliminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, AAUP president Rudy Fichtenbaum issued the following statement:

The American Association of University Professors denounces in the strongest possible terms the decision by the Trump administration to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA). This decision marks a continuation of the anti-immigrant racist policies that the administration has supported from the start.

Many of our members come from families that immigrated to the US. Their forebears came to the US for the same reason that today's immigrants do, for a better life for their families, especially their children. But the Trump administration, feeding off the fears and insecurity of many Americans, has used the issue of undocumented workers, along with racism and anti-Semitism, to divide people and disguise the real causes of the declining standards of working people, including working people of color.

DACA, which provides renewable two-year work permits for immigrants who were brought to the coun-

try illegally as children, was created by President Obama after the Republican-led House of Representatives refused to act on immigration. About 1.9 million undocumented young people are eligible to apply for the DACA program. Nearly 800,000 had their request for DACA status granted in 2016. Of those who have DACA status, about 576,000 are enrolled in college. In other words, an overwhelming majority of those granted DACA status are our students.

One of the major factors that makes American higher education a world class system is the diversity of our faculty and students. We owe it to these students and their families, as well as to other undocumented young people, to speak out against this action in the strongest manner possible. We call on our members to urge Congress to act immediately to undo President Trump's action and allow these young people to remain in our classrooms.

We also urge Congress to enact a comprehensive immigration reform policy that will welcome immigrants to our shores—those fleeing political persecution and violence as well as those who simply seek a better life, regardless of their race, religion, or national origin.

AAUP Conference Proposals

In the past year, free speech on campuses has become a focus of contentious debate and increased media scrutiny. Campus communities—including administrators, faculty, and students—generally embrace the concept of free speech yet lack a clear consensus about its limits. The AAUP invites proposals for presentations at the AAUP conference on higher education in Arlington, Virginia, June 14-16, 2018, that offer nuanced articulations of the concept of free speech in the context of higher education. Presentations on other topics of interest to a diverse, multidisciplinary higher education audience are welcome. We encourage proposals that raise questions, engage conference participants in discussion, and foster dialogue.

You may propose either a complete session or an individual presentation. Individual presentations, if accepted, will be grouped into sessions with other individual presentations. Complete sessions may consist of a panel presentation followed by Q&A, or a roundtable discussion to encourage more audience participation. Proposals will be accepted through January 14, 2018 using the form at aaup.org/CFP-2018



The War on Science

By Leo Welch

The March for Science in Washington DC, and in more than 600 cities around the world, was held this year on April 22, Earth Day. Although the organizers proclaimed the march was to support science, in reality, it was clearly a march protesting against President Donald Trump and his anti-science positions. Trump has referred to climate change as a “hoax.” He has supported funding cuts to the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other science-related government organizations. This March for Science and related activities were unprecedented for the scientific community. The current Trump-led attack on science is put into perspective in Shawn Otto’s excellent book, *The War on Science*, which describes the history of this and other anti-science movements especially in the United States.

One example Otto discusses is William Proxmire, Democratic U. S. Senator from Wisconsin, who established his Golden Fleece Awards for what, in his opinion, was wasteful government spending on scientific research projects. The Proxmire attack on science targeted the United States Department of Defense, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and National Science Foundation. His attacks lasted from 1975 to 1988 creating adverse publicity and reducing public support for scientific research. Fortunately, he retired from his Senate position in 1988 but similar types of “awards” live on with other organizations that condemn government spending of taxpayer money on scientific research.

Anti-science is also still alive and well today in Dayton, Tennessee. Dayton is the location of the 1925 “Monkey Trial” of John Scopes, a science teacher at the local high school. In May 1925, the Tennessee legislature enacted the Butler Act, making it illegal to teach evolution or that man had developed from a lower form of life. To challenge the law, local citizens persuaded Scopes to state that he had taught evolutionary concepts to his high school class.

Scopes was arrested, tried at the Rhea County Courthouse in Dayton in a trial that lasted eleven days, found guilty and fined \$100. Williams Jennings Bryan was one of the prosecutors; Clarence Darrow defended Scopes. The verdict against Scopes was later overturned on a technicality, but the Butler Act remained Tennessee law for 42 years until it was finally overturned in 1967. The trial drew newspaper reporters from around the country and was later the focus of the stage play and the Academy Award winning movie *Inherit the Wind*.

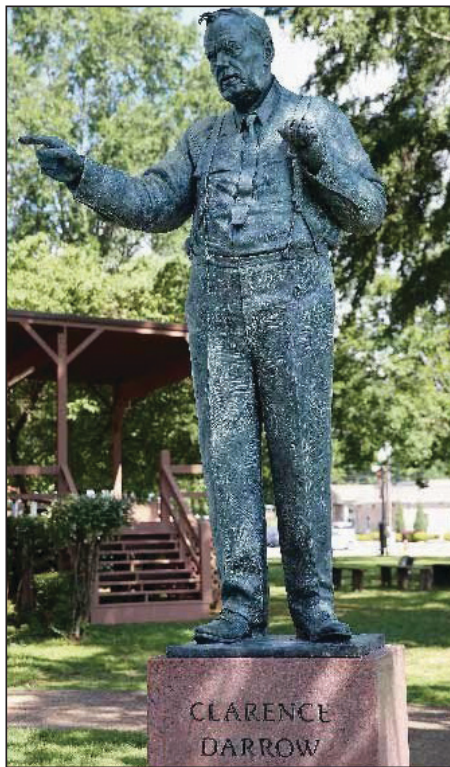
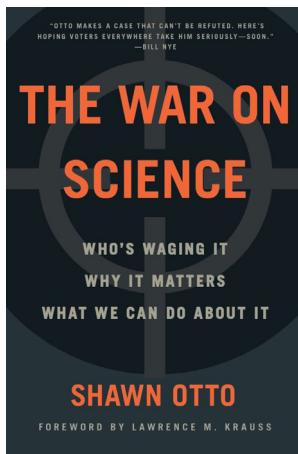
A few years after the trial, Bryan College, an evangelical Christian school named after William Jennings Bryan, was formed and still exists in Dayton today. In 2005 on the 75th anniversary of its founding, the college erected a statue of Bryan and installed it on the lawn of the Rhea County Court House to honor Bryan’s role in the Scopes trial.

This summer, 92 years after the trial and 12 years after the installation of the Bryan statue in Dayton, The American Humanists Association received permission to erect a statue of Clarence Darrow on the courthouse lawn. Because I contributed to the funding of the statue, I was invited to the dedication ceremony. When I arrived in Dayton, June Griffin, the Rhea County Tea Party leader and Pastor of the American Bible Protestant Church was quoted in the local paper objecting to the installation of the Darrow statue. According to the Dayton Times Free Press, she invited the Darrow statue supporters to form a militia and have a fire fight with her and her Christian militia at King’s Mountain.

Despite the threat of violence but with the presence of State and City Police, the Rhea County Sheriff’s Department and plain clothes security, who took the threats seriously, the Darrow statue dedication ceremony was peacefully concluded. I left town convinced that anti-science feelings are still present in Dayton, Tennessee, today as they were in 1925.

Basic scientific research does benefit the public good although the benefits of the research may not be obvious immediately. Mohammad Ahmadpoor and Benjamin F. Jones, both from Northwestern University, found a significant correlation between basic scientific research and the marketplace. Their analysis of 4.8 million patents issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office from 1976 to 2013 and 32 million journal research articles showed that 80% of the most cited research articles through 2013 are linked to a future patent. The Ahmadpoor and Jones data supports the direct link between scientific research and viable patents and should counter the common opinion of the general public and too many politicians that basic scientific research has no practical effect.

The war on science will undoubtedly continue fueled by religious objections and political ideology. Only informed support of science will enable the United States to continue as a world leader in science research rather than a leader in a race to the bottom.



Faculty Statement Opposing the Online University Deal Between Purdue University and Kaplan

The deal between Purdue University and Kaplan:

1. establishes a public-benefit corporation (“New University”) operated by and for the profit of a private entity (“Kaplan”);
2. provides for 12.5% of the “New University” revenue to go to Kaplan after operating costs and a priority payment are met; in addition, an “efficiency payment” of 20% of any cuts in operating cost incentivizes the “New University” to place efficiency above principles of academic integrity, student service, shared governance, and freedom of learning and inquiry;
3. channels public financial means to a private, for-profit entity with no public oversight, draining resources from public colleges and universities devoted to academic excellence and the public good, not the bottom line;
4. establishes conditions of at-will employment for 3,000 “New University” faculty and staff members, with no common geographic location for face-to-face meetings, and no provision for shared governance, tenure, or oversight from a deliberative body of faculty who are professionally qualified in the relevant area of expertise (“New University will have its own institutional accreditation and maintain its own faculty and administrative operations”);
5. ignores that Kaplan-owned entities have been decried for paying workers some of the lowest wages in the for-profit education industry; that attorneys general in Illinois, Delaware, and North Carolina have launched investigations into Kaplan University; that Kaplan has settled litigation in Massachusetts over allegations it misled students about job placement rates and in Texas over allegations that it employed unqualified instructors.

In addition:

1. the deal violates the long-cherished core principles of shared governance and academic freedom that the AAUP has stood for since 1915;
2. the deal outsources and privatizes public resources, weakening the ability of our public campuses to provide the quality education for which they are internationally recognized and jeopardizing their ability to continue to fulfill their public missions of providing Hoosiers with the best education possible;
3. as a public-benefit corporation operated for the profit of Kaplan, the new entity would undermine essential protections for the freedom of learning and inquiry on which higher education in the US has been premised for the last hundred years, as well as stripping Hoosiers from all walks of life of access to a higher education guaranteed by norms of professional review by peers;
4. it asks Hoosier taxpayers to devote tax revenues (through Indiana scholarships such as 21st Century Scholars Program) to the enrichment of a private corporation, a concept directly at odds with the mission of a public university, which is to advance the public good (via the education of citizens), not to turn a profit for a small band of private shareholders;
5. prioritizes profit over academic program quality, which will damage Purdue University’s hard-earned reputation for academic excellence.

We faculty at Indiana public universities hereby oppose the purchase by Purdue of Kaplan University.

Call for Papers, *Journal of Academic Freedom*

For its next volume, scheduled for publication in fall 2018, the AAUP’s *Journal of Academic Freedom* seeks original, scholarly articles exploring current mobilizations of the term free speech and their connections to existing practices and concepts of constitutionally protected speech and academic freedom. Electronic submissions of no more than 8,000 words should be sent to jaf@aaup.org by January 31, 2018 and must include an abstract of about 150 words.

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The Greater Our Numbers, the Stronger Our Voice

If you care enough about the future of higher education, we hope you’ll now take the next step and encourage your colleagues to join the AAUP at www.aaup.org.

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