

Appendix 4 to the A/P Staff Council Minutes of January 21, 2009

A/P STAFF COUNCIL RESPONSE

TO SIUC SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

The A/P Council would like to formally share our concern regarding the Chancellor's request for a list of SIUC Signature Programs. We feel that we do not have the appropriate information to make such a list and be confident that there would not be any ramifications. Below is a list of our concerns:

- Prior to identifying a list of "Signature Programs," there needs to be a broad statement of purpose which helps define what SIUC means by "Signature Program". We suggest that this definition be written by someone that is most knowledgeable of the campus mission and its direction for the future.
- Second, a list of Signature Program Criteria needs to be generated to help evaluate each program and determine whether they fit the definition. We are willing to help identify more specific criteria but feel that the broad statement of purpose should be developed first before more specific criteria is identified and prioritized
- Third, we are concerned that funding decisions will be made solely on whether a program has been identified as a Signature Program or not. We have concerns that pulling funds from some programs not on the list to support Signature programs will create an atmosphere of the "Haves and Have Nots". We do not believe this to be a productive way to prioritize funding needs.
- If a list of Signature Programs is being used for marketing purposes, it is our recommendation that there be more of a focus on the demographics of a specific area and what programs would best serve those who reside in that area, rather than market a list of programs that might not fit any of their needs. We think that some students might come to SIUC for a certain field of study that might not necessarily be as popular, yet still be strong.

The A/P Council wants to cooperate in the best way possible to meet the needs of the University. We would be happy to provide representation to serve at any capacity that would help determine this information.

Approved January 21, 2009