



Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
FACULTY ASSOCIATION IEA-NEA

Professional Association Dedicated to the Advancement and Well-being of Higher Education

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Open Letter to the Southern Illinois University Community:

It is with great concern that we observe an SIUC chancellor again rejecting the unanimous recommendations of panels of the Judicial Review Board (JRB) when those decisions are in favor of faculty grievants. This is particularly disturbing after assurances by the administration that revisions of the JRB structure by the Faculty Senate and contractualization of the JRB role in promotion and tenure decisions would stop the practice of a chancellor routinely overturning JRB decisions where the JRB has found in favor of faculty grievants.

Indeed, Chancellor Wendler rejected nine out of eleven JRB panel recommendations that were in favor of faculty members even though six of those panels found unanimously in favor of the faculty grievant. This flip-flopped the record of previous chancellors who accepted 80% of those recommendations that were in favor of faculty. Chancellor Goldman has not accepted the only two JRB recommendations that have come to him with findings in favor of faculty members, both the unanimous decisions of the expanded five-member panels as constituted under the revised JRB procedures.

In the light of this history, recent events shake our confidence in the chancellor's commitment to the JRB process and its requirements, even as revised by mutual agreement. We cannot in good conscience recommend that any faculty member take a grievance through the JRB if the decision of the JRB panel is only going to be used if it supports denial of the grievance. This will, however, not shake our resolve to find just resolutions to faculty grievances. If current policies and agreements cannot accommodate this justice, then our agenda for future negotiations has already been set for us.

Sincerely,

Randy Hughes,
for the Executive Committee of the SIUC Faculty Association