Resolution of Service Learning and Professional Responsibility

Illinois Institute of Technology Mission Statement: To educate people who aspire to leadership roles in an increasingly complex and interconnected world and to support the advance of knowledge through research and scholarship.


Whereas: The Coalition for Service Learning and Professional Responsibility was formed by the students leaders of the Student Government Association, Catholic Campus Ministry, the Graduate Students Association, the American Red Cross Club, Engineers Without Borders, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, the Greek Council, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and other student leaders united in the common interest of promoting a culture of service and professional responsibility at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Whereas: The Coalition for Service Learning and Professional Responsibility has brought to the attention of the Student Government Association the invested interests of the student body in the direction and progress of the Illinois Institute of Technology; namely, that the Institute continue to educate world-class men and women while maintaining the mandate of visionary Frank Gnsaulus and benefactor Philip Danforth Armour as a university committed to preparing students for “meaningful” roles in society,

Whereas: Illinois Institute of Technology President Lew Collens has noted the interest of the North Central Association in community “engagement and service” as it relates to the Institute’s 2010 Plan, and he has established “compelling social need[s]” and moved rightly and responsibly to offer the Institute’s assistance in addressing these needs,

Whereas: The Community Development Office is presently invested in “[revitalizing the] surrounding community and contributing to citywide public policy goals” by developing strategic partnerships with many community organizations and government offices,

Whereas: The Office of International Affairs is currently working to cultivate a nuanced academic program sensitive to global concerns by “internationaliz[ing] the curriculum.”

Whereas: The Administration, through the initiatives mentioned above and through many others, has established a significant interest in and dedication to addressing the challenges of service and social responsibility,

And Whereas: The Office of Student Activities and student organizations have hosted events such as the Day of Service, Tsunami, Katrina & Earthquake relief efforts, American Red Cross Blood Drives, etc,

Whereas: Since Spring 2005, students have initiated student chapters of Engineers Without Borders, American Red Cross Club, and Rotaract,

Whereas: College of Architecture faculty and students are working on a design-build project to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina,
Whereas: Greek organizations are committed to instilling values such as community service, volunteerism, and good citizenship into the Illinois Institute of Technology community.

Whereas: The InterProfessional Project Program has expressed interest in and begun moving to undertake more projects of a service nature, including securing a grant in order to integrate elements of Purdue University’s successful Engineering Projects In Community Service (EPICS) Program,

Whereas: The Camras Scholar Program has focused on service through its Pathways initiative,

Whereas: The above mentioned initiatives, in concert with many others, demonstrate that students, faculty, and staff of the Illinois Institute of Technology have undertaken many service efforts and continue to expand opportunities for responsible citizenship,

And Whereas: The recent tragic natural disasters have made us aware of the broad and significant needs of society and moved us to recognize our responsibility to promote human dignity,

Whereas: History has proven that technology, science, and knowledge can easily be abused,

Whereas: We recognize the essential importance of professionals who use their training in the service of mankind,

Whereas: Alumni of the Institute currently hold positions of great influence and will continue to shape the global landscape,

Whereas: Being located in Chicago – a truly dynamic and exciting city – and more specifically in a neighborhood of particular diversity and acute need, the Institute is well postured to open students to the “real world” beyond laboratories and office buildings.

Whereas: The Illinois Institute of Technology Board of Trustees is reviewing the Institute’s Mission Statement,

Whereas: The currently stated mission of the Institute is primarily technical,

Whereas: It is necessary to complement the technical aspect of education with the philosophy of service and understanding of professional responsibility, and

Whereas: Still more can and should be done to promote a culture of service and professional responsibility that recognizes and promotes the already rich education available to IIT students while also emphasizing the duties that come with such formation,

Therefore Let it be Resolved: That the Student Government Association as the voice of the student body, requests the Institute to give a timely response in more fervently promoting a culture of service and professional responsibility among the entire campus community,
Let it be
Further
Resolved: That the Student Government Association requests the curriculum of the Institute be adjusted where appropriate to promote a *culture of service and professional responsibility*, and

Let it be
Further
Resolved: That Student Government Association requests the Institute’s Mission Statement to be reformed with attention to a *culture of service and professional responsibility*.

Let it be
Further
Resolved: That the *culture of service and professional responsibility* be rooted in respect for human life and dignity, solidarity among all people, personal and professional integrity, and the common good of society, and

Let it be
Further
Resolved: That Student Government Association offers its dedicated assistance to the Institute in addressing these interests.

Let it be
Further
Resolved: That the accompanying list shall serve as suggestions for timely action.
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Suggestions

- Formation of a Values Statement that recognizes the societal need for ethically sound leaders to advance the technology, science, and knowledge for the benefit of mankind.

- Creation of a permanent staff position with the responsibility of coordinating community service projects.

- Concentration on a service-oriented approach to one of the two IPROs which students are required to participate.

- Development of course on ethical leadership and professional responsibility to be taught within each college, focusing on the unique ethical challenges of each profession.

- Institution of a “Certificate of Service Learning” to recognize service-based achievement and contribution (similar to the “Certificate of Leadership Studies”).

- Foundation of the “Student Service Award” to recognize outstanding contributions through service.

- Recognition of achievements in service during the commencement ceremony.

- Establishment of scholarships to promote service learning.

- Creation of a student organization special account type dedicated to supporting service activities (similar to the 2-account already in place).

- Formation of a lecture series and forum on ethics and service.