University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: 
the Real Financial State

Cash flow is highly positive. UIUC generated more than $400 million in operating cash surplus in 2012. That is a strong cash position for a $2 billion per year operation like UIUC.

Huge reserves have been built up in recent years. UIUC now has $700 million in reserves thanks to those operating surpluses, around $460 million of the reserves being in unrestricted funds.

Administration priorities are upside-down

Administrative positions are growing. The number of administrators has grown rapidly, up by 120 over 2007, while faculty numbers have fallen. Administrative salaries continue to increase faster than faculty salaries. Campus administrative expenses (“institutional support”) rose by 16% in 2011-2012 alone.

Enrollments are up. We teach thousands more students - numbers up by 4.5% over last 6 years.

Faculty Positions are down. Tenure stream faculty numbers have fallen, despite rising enrollments. Since 2007, UIUC has added a net of 2 tenure-stream faculty positions, while poorly paid, non-tenure-stream positions have grown by at least 200.

The administration’s plan to hire 500 faculty members over the next seven years means just one step forward and one step backwards. When attrition rates are factored in, we could end up with 100-200 fewer full-time faculty than we had in 2008.

Priorities out of balance. Only 33% of the University’s total expenditure is directed to instruction and research salaries and benefits.

The “take-away”. UIUC continues to hire more administrators and increase their salaries, and charge more students higher tuition, while allowing faculty numbers and faculty salaries to stagnate, and indeed to fall even further behind peer institutions.

A faculty union would give us power to shift those priorities, and protect high quality research and education at UIUC. We can do better!
This flyer summarizes the presentation on October 10, 2013 by Professor Howard Bunsis, of the American Association of University Professors, and professor of accounting at Eastern Michigan University. It is based on his analysis of the federal government IPEDS data set (Integrated PostSecondary Education Data System) for the University of Illinois, the AAUP Salary Survey, University documents available on the websites of the Division of Management Information (www.dmi.illinois.edu) and the UI Office for Planning & Budgeting (http://www.pb.uillinois.edu/), and other sources.

Professor Bunsis’s full presentation is available at our website: http://cfaillinois.org/downloads/