



**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA STUDENT GOVERNMENT**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session-**  
**Student Senate**  
**S.S.R. # 4**

Sponsor: Senator Dok, Senator Quevedo

Referred to: Justice and Equity Committee, Governmental Relations Committee

Student Senate Action: Passed/Failed/Tabled

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**Section 1. Short Title**

This resolution may be titled as “A Resolution Calling for the Continued Support of the University of Iowa Labor Center and Abidance by Shared Governance Principles.”

**Section 2. Background**

*Whereas*, the University of Iowa has declared that in “pursuing its missions of teaching, research, and service,” it “seeks to advance scholarly and creative endeavor through leading-edge research and artistic production; to use this research and creativity to enhance undergraduate, graduate, and professional education, health care, and other services provided to the people of Iowa, the nation, and the world; and to educate students for success and personal fulfillment in a diverse world”<sup>1</sup>; and

*Whereas*, the Labor Center has for 57 years contributed to fulfilling the UI’s teaching, research, and outreach missions with support from both taxpayer and university-wide tuition revenues via the General Education Fund, while also generating its own program revenue and securing external funding; and,

*Whereas*, the Labor Center’s existing \$557,000 General Education Fund allocation traveled with the Labor Center as it was transferred from the Division of Continuing Education to the College of Law in 2016; and,

*Whereas*, the President’s Office, in July of 2018, announced its intent to defund the Labor Center<sup>2</sup> alongside six other centers; and,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://provost.uiowa.edu/ui-academic-mission>

<sup>2</sup> <https://now.uiowa.edu/2018/07/ui-forced-make-difficult-budget-decisions-following-state-funding-cuts>

*Whereas*, undergraduate student tuition dollars have funded the center for the last 57 years, up until July 1st, 2018. Under the new funding model, the \$557,000 will be reabsorbed by the College of Law, and not allocated to undergraduate student services; and,

*Whereas*, the decision to defund the Labor Center was made without input from student voices, including those of UISG representatives; and,

*Whereas*, a task force “To involve shared governance directly when reviewing recommendations from Deans and Vice Presidents on possible closures, consolidations, and opportunities” was not drawn up until August 2018, months after the decision to close the Labor Center has already been approved; and,

*Whereas*, the Labor Center enhances undergraduate, graduate, and professional education by teaching undergraduate general education courses and first-year seminars, providing guest lectures in numerous graduate and undergraduate courses<sup>3</sup>, supervising the work of graduate research assistants, and providing students with service learning, applied research, practicum, and internship opportunities with diverse community-based partners; and

*Whereas*, the Labor Center advances scholarly endeavor by conducting original research including nationally recognized projects like the Iowa Labor History Oral Project and the Child Labor Public Education Project, coordinating interdisciplinary faculty and student research, and hosting campus conferences and events featuring nationally recognized scholars, filmmakers, and leaders; and

*Whereas*, the University of Iowa Labor Center serves 2,000 - 2,500 Iowans annually from 70 counties by educating them on their rights as workers; and,

*Whereas*, said courses are composed largely of low-wage workers without college degrees and immigrants, who are some of the state’s most vulnerable and underserved residents; and,

*Whereas*, Labor Center courses regularly focus on the rights of workers for just compensation, combatting wage theft, reporting sexual harassment and discrimination at the workplace, seeking legal assistance, collective bargaining, among others; and,

*Whereas*, 20 registered student organizations, including UI Students for Human Rights, Best Buddies, the Financial Management Association, and the University of Iowa Special Olympics signed a petition requesting that the university reconsider its decision to defund the Labor Center; and,

### **Section 3. Position**

*Therefore be it resolved*, that the University of Iowa Student Government calls on university administration to reevaluate its decision to close the Labor Center recommit funds to guarantee that UI students and Iowa workers have access to critical education and research on workplace rights and labor issues for generations to come. In addition, UISG calls on university administration to increase transparency with campus partners, students, and the greater Iowa City community, especially in regard to funding model changes.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://laborcenter.uiowa.edu/customized-classes-campus-sample-topics>

*Be it further resolved, UISG calls on administrators to uphold the principles of shared governance by engaging with UISG on important decisions as the voice of the student body.*

**4. Enactment Clause**

Be it enacted by University of Iowa Student Government upon the signature of President Hira Mustafa

*I hereby attest and certify that this bill originated from the 2018-2019 Student Senate Session.*

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UISG Speaker of the Senate Gronski

I hereby attest and certify that this resolution originated from the 2018-2019 Joint Governments Session.

\_\_\_\_\_  
UISG Secretary  
Mahanna

APPROVED on \_\_\_\_\_, 2018

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UISG  
President Mustafa