

National Student Issues Convention Instructions
Friday October 16, 2009, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Student Center East Cardinal Room (Formerly CCC)

The National Student Issues in Chicago, Michigan, and colleges across the country (and with Internet discussions with students abroad) will involve more than 400 students at UIC. Several thousand high school and college students will participate at the other universities.

In past years the Chicago City Council has issued a formal proclamation praising the National Student Issues Convention. In the past the convention has focused upon issues like higher education tuition, more funding for K-12 education, gentrification in the inner city, health care for the uninsured, and the “Dream Act” to educate children of undocumented workers.

The Convention will proceed according to the following timetable:

9:00 a.m. Students will check in at Cardinal Room from different political science classes.

9:10 a.m. Welcome

9:20 a.m. Opening instructions given to all students by Professor Dick Simpson.

9:25 a.m. Convention will divide into working groups to frame the agenda that each group thinks worthwhile. (Groups will be of no more than 30 students, each of whom will elect their own chairperson.) Graduate student Teaching Assistants and faculty are available to provide advice or answer questions but undergraduates run their own group.

10:10 a.m. Students vote on one or two issues their group will present and select the chairperson or someone else in the group to make the presentation to the entire assembly.

10:10 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Plenary Session chaired by Professor Robert Bruhl. Each group proposes its agenda and the entire convention votes on the top five agenda items. Each student has three votes. The vote totals will be added to the national agenda. Five agenda topics will be selected to present to public officials and candidates.

11:00 a.m. Governor, Lt. Governor, U.S. Senate, and County Board President Candidates or Surrogate Speakers from their Campaigns will receive the agenda from the students and respond. Each official or their staff member will be given 15 minutes to respond to the student agenda of concerns. This session will be chaired by Professor Dick Simpson.

12:25 p.m. Convention ends.