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### Formally Establishing an EIU Think Tank

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*Faculty Senate*

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## Resolution Establishing the EIU Think Tank

April 19, 2022

*Sponsored by Chair Bruns*

WHEREAS, A number of trends in higher education, including but not limited to, long-term declines in state support of higher education, the 2016-2018 state of Illinois budget crisis, and student demographic trends, have seriously impacted our institution, and;

WHEREAS, the *2017-2018 Vitalization Project* and the *Fall 2018 Vitalization Review*, while essential for responding to the state of Illinois budget crisis, were essentially reactive responses, and;

WHEREAS, the results of these crises have crystalized the need for our institution to recognize and pre-emptively adapt to the reality of changing macroenvironments impacting higher education, and;

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate of AY 2018-2019 approved a 3-year pilot project of an EIU Think Tank to serve as a deliberative body focused on data collection, analysis, forecasting, and dissemination, and;

WHEREAS, the EIU Think Tank project successfully identified the macrotrend of “test optional,” prepping our institution prior to the onset of the COVID pandemic crisis, and successfully identified macrotrends related directly to the COVID pandemic crisis itself, and;

WHEREAS, the President of the University, the Provost, the Chair of Faculty Senate, and members of the EIU Think Tank all view the results of the pilot project as positive and successful, therefore;

RESOLVED, That the EIU Think Tank shall be formally established, as defined by the EIU Think Tank By-Laws document (attached), and to be convened starting Fall 2022, and;

RESOLVED, the chair of Faculty Senate shall serve as the annual convener of the Think Tank, announcing the think tank members for the academic year, scheduling the meetings, and attending the EIU Think Tank’s first meeting of the academic year in order to convene the group for the year.