

**ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES**

**Resolution No. 2026.05/13  
Authorization to Renew  
Academic Analytics  
Software License**

**Resolution**

Whereas, Illinois State University is committed to engaging in continuous improvement particularly in the areas of student success, faculty success, and fiscal sustainability; and

Whereas, the University utilizes institutional research and peer benchmarking to measure progress in continuous improvement; and

Whereas, Academic Analytics offers validated measures and benchmarking of faculty success in outcomes of research and creative scholarship; and

Whereas, Academic Analytics is the only software tool that provides detailed analyses that track outcomes of research and creative scholarship while permitting benchmarking of data between universities;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves a three-year renewal term of the Academic Analytics software license, with a total cost not to exceed \$564,000 for the term.

Board Action on:	_____	Postpone:	_____
Motion by:	_____	Amend:	_____
Second by:	_____	Disapprove:	_____
Vote:	Yeas: _____ Nays: _____	Approve:	_____

ATTEST: Board Action, \_\_\_\_\_ May 8, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary / Chairperson

**Board of Trustees**  
**Illinois State University**  
**Authorization to Renew Academic Analytics Software License**

Illinois State University (ISU) adopted Academic Analytics in 2023 as its primary, discipline normalized source of evidence on scholarly research outcomes. Since 2005, Academic Analytics has served as the principal benchmarking repository for U.S. Ph.D. granting institutions, with data encompassing nearly 500,000 faculty members across more than 10,000 Ph.D. programs and 12,000 academic departments nationwide. This scale and longitudinal coverage make Academic Analytics the dominant comparative dataset in U.S. higher education for understanding scholarly productivity at the institutional, college, unit, and individual faculty levels.

Academic Analytics expertly aggregates and curates externally verified, nonsurvey-based data on core indicators of scholarly activity, including, though not limited to, peer reviewed publications, citation impact, federally sponsored research funding, and nationally recognized honorific awards. Normalization of the data by academic discipline allows for valid peer comparisons within fields, a methodological approach aligned with best practices endorsed by research universities and institutional research offices. This approach supports strategic decision making while avoiding the subjective reputation measures common to commercial rankings systems.

ISU's strategic plan, *Excellence by Design*, identifies elevation of scholarly and creative impact as a central institutional priority. In support of this goal, the Office of the Provost in collaboration with Research and Sponsored Programs and other campus partners increasingly rely on Academic Analytics to monitor longitudinal trends in research activity, benchmark research output relative to existing and aspirant peer institutions, and identify areas of distinction, opportunity, and underinvestment that influence the University's academic reputation and competitiveness as an R2 institution.

Consistent with practices across R2 and R1 universities, Academic Analytics data are used to inform strategic planning, program review, faculty development, research investment, and accreditation reporting. While demonstrated use cases far exceed these examples, institutions also recognize the data are not assessed in isolation as a sole or determinative measure of individual faculty performance. By grounding institutional decisions in nationally comparable, discipline -specific evidence, ISU ensures its scholarly activity reflects both the rigor of current academic standards and the University's aspirations for research excellence.

The renewal three-year term costs for Academic Analytics are outlined in the table below.

	<b>Year 1 (FY27)</b>	<b>Year 2 (FY28)</b>	<b>Year 3 (FY29)</b>
Annual Licensing and Support	\$181,446	\$187,796	\$194,369
<b>Three-year total</b>			<b>\$563,611</b>

The University respectfully requests authorization for the purchase of a three-year Academic Analytics software license renewal at an expense not to exceed \$564,000.

**Source of Funding:**

- General Revenue