

Board Meeting  
April 11, 2006

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON ACTIONS OF THE SENATES

### Revision of the Master of Architecture Program, Chicago

The Chicago Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Architecture and the Arts to revise the Master of Architecture program, shifting from a concentration studio format to a master's thesis format. In the past format, students entering their final semester of study enrolled in one of four topic studios offered every spring (activist practice, architectural technologies, digital media, and landscape urbanism). In the new proposal students will develop a sustained program of independent research and design inquiry articulated at the beginning of their studies, culminating in the production of a formal thesis in their last semester.

### Revision of the Master of Social Work Program, Chicago

The Chicago Senate has approved a proposal from Jane Addams College of Social Work to revise the Master of Social Work (MSW) Program. A new concentration, Community Health and Urban Development, will be established in conjunction with the elimination of two concentrations: (a) Community and Administrative Practice and (b) Health. The changes will mean the MSW program will have four concentrations instead of its current five.

Introduction of the new concentration will not affect the total number of credit hours required for the MSW degree.

Revision of the Bachelor of Science in Finance, Chicago

The Chicago Senate has approved an optional concentration in risk management and insurance for finance majors. A concentration in this area will highlight the student's interest and facilitate their job placement into the insurance industry, an industry that is represented by several major companies in northern Illinois. This concentration meets recently approved University guidelines and requirements, so qualifying finance majors will have the concentration designated on their transcripts.

Revision to the Major Resulting in an Increase in the Number of Hours for the B.S. Degree in Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Engineering to revise the major and increase the number of hours required for the B.S. Degree in Material Science and Engineering.

A need to increase the laboratory experience for students particularly those pursuing the Biomaterials concentration has resulted in an increase in the number of hours required for the degree, from 128 to 131 hours. Students will now have more exposure through a biomaterials laboratory and technical electives.

Establish a Concentration in Biomolecular Engineering in the B.S. Degree in Chemical Engineering, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to create a concentration in Biomolecular Engineering in the B.S. Degree in Chemical Engineering.

The new curriculum builds upon the traditional principles of chemical engineering, but specializes in biological and biotechnical systems in order to better prepare students who seek employment in the food, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology industries.

Establish a Graduate Concentration in Astrochemistry in the Ph.D. Degree in both Chemistry and Astronomy, Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the Graduate College to create a graduate concentration in Astrochemistry in the Ph.D. Degree in both Chemistry and Astronomy.

Astrochemistry is an interdisciplinary area of knowledge at the intersection between chemistry and astronomy. Topics of research include identifying organic molecules in interstellar space, building models of chemical reactions that occur in interstellar space and understanding the contributions of interstellar molecules to the chemical origins of life. In order to succeed in this field, students require training in both of the traditional disciplines of chemistry and astronomy. The proposed graduate concentration in Astrochemistry will provide a framework for such training of Ph.D. students.

Redesignate Major in Russian and East European Studies as Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to redesignate the major in Russian and East European Studies as Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

In 2004, the Russian and East European Center was redesignated as the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, reflecting the fact that since the collapse of the Soviet Union the term Russia can no longer reasonably stand for all the former Soviet States. As a result, it has become common to use the term Eurasia to refer to the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. The redesignation made clear our continued inclusion in the major of these non-Russian Eurasian areas. It is logical for the major to be redesignated accordingly.

Establish an Honors Concentration in the Integrative Biology Major, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to create an honors concentration in the Integrative Biology major.

The honors concentration is designed for superior students who wish to pursue an intensive biology program, and concurrently, to gain a strong background in the physical sciences, mathematics, and statistics. An intense laboratory and field component emphasizes first-hand experience with the processes of science and the investigative framework.

