

Board Meeting
December 2, 2011

RENAME THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES IN
GEOGRAPHY, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, URBANA

Action: Rename the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Geography,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Vice President, University of Illinois and Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to rename the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Geography as the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Geography and Geographic Information Science.

Paired with the companion proposal to rename the Department of Geography, the proposed name achieves a number of goals for the unit. The discipline of geography has recently undergone transformation to the extent that Geographic Information Science (GIScience) is now a distinct, highly recognized field of knowledge that emphasizes the development and application of various techniques to manage, process, and analyze geographic information. The change also affords an opportunity to rebrand the major to attract new students who are specifically seeking an academic program in GIScience. Current demand for GIScience professionals in the public and private sectors currently exceeds the supply and this situation is anticipated to exist well into the future. By renaming the major, the department increases its visibility as an

educational center of excellence in GIScience and provides graduates with a degree that clearly identifies their training in this important new field.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.