

Board Meeting  
January 15, 2009

REDESIGNATE THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SPEECH COMMUNICATION,  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE  
COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Approve the Redesignation of the Doctor of Philosophy in Speech Communication, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College to redesignate the Doctor of Philosophy in Speech Communication as the Doctor of Philosophy in Communication.

The redesignation of speech communication as communication reflects the evolution of the teaching and research interests in the department as well as national changes within the discipline. This request follows the proposal to change the department name from speech communication to communication, approved on March 26, 2008. The label “speech communication” no longer accurately describes the range of scholarly and teaching activities carried out by the department. The graduate programs focus more broadly on the humanistic and social scientific “study of messages,” some of which are spoken, but many of which are not. The name change highlights these shifts and is necessary for the department to attract students and faculty.

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.