

Board Meeting
January 18, 2007

REDESIGNATE THE INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE
EDUCATION AS THE LEARNING SCIENCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, CHICAGO

Action: Approve the Redesignation of the Institute for Mathematics and Science Education as the Learning Sciences Research Institute, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Chicago, with the advice of the Chicago Senate, the Graduate College, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, recommends the redesignation of the Institute for Mathematics and Science Education (IMSE) as the Learning Sciences Research Institute (LSRI).

The Institute for Mathematics and Science Education has operated on the Chicago campus as an IBHE-approved institute since 1992. Its mission is to improve teaching and curriculum in pre-K through 16 education, to inform and support change efforts in teaching and curriculum through research, and to promote interdisciplinary work and communication among faculty working in math and science education. The redesignation reflects the efforts of the center in promoting interdisciplinary work on questions of how people learn and informing and supporting change efforts in teaching, learning, and assessment through research and development of curricula and learning materials for both teachers and learners. The interdisciplinary emphasis reflects a

movement beyond mathematics and science to encompass multiple disciplines and a broadening of the age range of the learners. This movement is consistent with contemporary trends in research on teaching and learning. The proposed LSRI would continue to maintain a core emphasis on mathematics and science education within a larger context that includes other disciplines and a wider scope of work that encompasses the social, cultural, and environmental contexts of teaching and learning.

The redesignated Institute would function as a campus-wide, multidisciplinary unit and would continue to report to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who would oversee the unit on behalf of the deans of the three colleges supporting the Institute: Liberal Arts and Sciences, Education, and Engineering. The Institute offers no degree-granting programs, but the research conducted supports graduate students in their studies and frequently leads to thesis and dissertation projects. The name change would bring the unit's title in line with its expanded campus-wide mission to support research on learning and instruction in multiple disciplines.

In the process of redesignating the IMSE to the LSRI, a second program of research on the Chicago campus, the Program in the Study of Learning, Instruction, and Teacher Development (LITD) will be brought under the LSRI umbrella. This move is in keeping with the Chicago campus-wide effort to bring together units similar in mission and function. LITD research and development focus on literacy and social studies as well as mathematics and science. Both IMSE and the LITD are concerned with learning and instruction and participants frequently collaborate on projects in mathematics and science education. The redesignation of IMSE and its consolidation with LITD into the

LSRI will provide an improved organization from which Chicago campus researchers can achieve greater impact, visibility, and leveraging of resources.

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 University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University concurs, pending further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.