

Board Meeting
January 18, 2007

ELIMINATE THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MAJOR WITHIN THE
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, URBANA

Action: Approve Elimination of Business Administration Major within the Bachelor of Science Degree in the College of Business, Urbana

Funding: No Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends for approval a proposal from the College of Business to eliminate the Business Administration major within the Bachelor of Science Degree.

In a previous item, the Board of Trustees approved reorganizing the eight concentrations in the Business Administration major into five majors and three concentrations within the Bachelor of Science Degree in the College of Business, including establishment of one new concentration. This item and another in the President's Report on Actions of the Senate completes that process.

The elimination of the major in Business Administration and the proposed reorganization is the result of a careful review of national trends and the desire to ensure that students are receiving appropriate credentials.

When the Department of Business Administration was formed in the late 1960s it combined various academic fields in business. In the last 40 years, however, each of these subfields has become an independent academic discipline with a unique

teaching and research agenda. As is evidenced by our peers, Illinois is one of the last institutions to offer the umbrella major of Business Administration. The reorganization of majors and concentrations will not only benefit students academically, but assist in recruitment as well as in professional careers and graduate study. Students are often disappointed to learn their emphasis area is neither a major nor a concentration, and they express similar concern when the emphasis area is not reflected on the transcript.

Recruiters and other outside constituencies believe that the College of Business at Urbana does not offer degrees in major areas of business. This proposal provides a more accurate representation of the programs offered by the Department of Business Administration.

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.