

Board Meeting
January 18, 2018

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE **IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES**
IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND SCIENCES, URBANA

Action: Establish the Bachelor of Science **in Liberal Arts and Sciences** in
Computer Science and Philosophy, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish the Bachelor of Science **in Liberal Arts and Sciences** in Computer Science and Philosophy.

The “CS +X” model originally included four College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) majors: Anthropology, Astronomy, Chemistry, and Linguistics. This model was approved by the Board of Trustees on May 31, 2012, and by the Illinois Board of Higher Education on February 5, 2013. The current proposal builds on the model, adding Philosophy to the list of LAS disciplines to pair with Computer Science.

Computer science has long been closely linked with philosophy; for example, one of the first computing devices, an adding machine, was created by philosopher Blaise Pascal in the 1640s. More recently, in the twentieth century, the links

between these disciplines came into fuller focus, with scholars whose accomplishments have an academic home equally footed in philosophy and in computer science departments, asking questions such as: What is an algorithm, what is computation, and can computers think? Thus, it is natural to propose a major that links these two disciplines at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Training in philosophy complements and supplements training provided in computer science on the key questions above, and philosophical training can help students in investigating ethical questions arising from the rise of computers in society.

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 Executive Vice President and 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.