

Reported to the Board of Trustees,
January 20, 2005

Board Meeting
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON ACTIONS OF THE SENATES

Biochemical Engineering Concentration for the B.S. in Chemical Engineering, Chicago

The Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Engineering, has approved a proposal to establish the Biochemical Engineering Concentration within the Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering program. Aimed at broadening the educational experience and career choices of students in the undergraduate program in Chemical Engineering, the Biochemical Engineering Concentration will provide further training in biochemical/bioprocess engineering which positions graduates for job opportunities in the chemical, food, beverage, and pharmaceutical industries, as well as in environmental clean-up endeavors. Students choosing the Biochemical Engineering Concentration will use 12 hours of elective credit to take four courses from a list of designated courses, including those from biochemical engineering courses in the Department of Chemical Engineering, microbiology courses offered by the Department of Biological Sciences, biochemistry courses from the Department of Chemistry, and environmental/waste water treatment courses from the Department of Civil and Materials Engineering.

Criteria for Campus-Wide Honors Recognition at Graduation, Chicago

The Chicago Senate, with the advice of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs/Dean of the Honors College, and the Committee of Associate and Assistant Deans, has approved a proposal to revise the criteria for campus-wide honors recognition at graduation. Currently operating under a policy dating back to 1965, honors recognition, University Honors, is given to students with a minimum grade point average of 4.50 (A=5.00) and is limited to the top three percent of each graduating class. Over the years, concerns have arisen regarding the policy and its ramifications for graduating seniors and alumni. The number of students in each college that graduates each semester varies significantly. This results in significant variation of the three percent grade point average cutoff. For example, in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS), the three percent grade point average cutoff for Spring 2003 was 4.95. Thus, a student graduating with a 4.85 cumulative grade point average who had earned highest distinction in his/her department and who also graduated as a member of the Honors College was not entitled to campus-wide recognition. However, the cumulative grade point average cutoff for LAS graduates in Summer 2003 was 4.65, and for Fall 2003, 4.87. Thus, if the same student had waited one additional term for his/her graduation to become official, he/she would have received the University Honors designation.

The Chicago campus is adopting a University Honors system that recognizes the three traditional separate distinctions for scholastic excellence according to the following ranges of cumulative grade point averages (A=4.00):

Summa cum laude	3.90 and above
Magna cum laude	3.75 to 3.89
Cum laude	3.50 to 3.74

The new system is recommended to avoid the varying cutoffs that result from the percentage designation. In addition, undergraduates will know beforehand what it will take to earn each of the three University Honors designations upon graduation. The adoption of the Latin descriptors is recommended because they possess a universally-recognized meaning.

Undergraduate Athletic Training Education Concentration in the Department of Kinesiology, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Applied Life Studies to create an Undergraduate Athletic Training Education Concentration in the Department of Kinesiology.

Students pursuing the Athletic Training Education Concentration will complete 37 hours of coursework in athletic training, sports injury, and sports medicine. Upon completion of the concentration students will be well prepared for a career as an athletic trainer and will have met the accreditation requirements established by the Joint Review Committee on Athletic Training of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs.

Interdisciplinary Minor in African American Studies, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to rename the Interdisciplinary Minor in Afro-African American Studies.

The proposed name change from Afro-American to African American brings the name in line with current nomenclature and more accurately represents the current field of study. The term Afro-American was commonly used in the 1960s but has not been widely used in either the academic field or larger society for three decades. The new title will make the minor more relevant and understandable for students and reflect the current nomenclature of the academic field.

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to revise Existing and Create New Concentrations of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre.

As part of a revision of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre, the department proposes a series of revisions to their existing concentrations and the creation of several new concentrations. The changes requested are:

1. Creation of a new non-degree Theatre Foundations concentration for all incoming freshmen who will then declare a specific concentration by the end of their sophomore year.
2. Change the name of the Professional Studio in Acting concentration to Acting.

3. Change the name of the Costume Design and Construction concentration to Costume Design and Technology.
4. Split the Theatre Technology and Lighting concentration into separate concentrations in Scenic Technology, and Lighting Design.
5. Create a new concentration in Sound Design and Technology.
6. Change name of Scene Design Concentration to Scenic Design.

All remaining concentrations will remain unchanged. These recommended changes will better prepare students for careers in the theater and will more accurately reflect the state of the field.