

Board Meeting  
January 21, 2016

RENAME THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION  
SCIENCE, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE  
AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Rename the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Graduate School of Library and Information Science and the Graduate College

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Interim Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science and the Graduate College to rename the Graduate School of Library and Information Science to the School of Information Sciences.

The current name of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) dates back to 1981. For nearly two decades, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked GSLIS number one among professional schools offering master's degrees in library and information science. The School remains committed to ensuring the excellence of that degree program. The proposed name, School of Information Sciences, is significantly more effective in communicating the current and anticipated scope of the research, teaching, and engagement efforts of the School as it encompasses the full range of intellectual practices around information and information institutions. Over the past 34 years, GSLIS has undergone significant changes, including diversification of faculty

backgrounds and research and teaching interests. GSLIS was a founding member of the iSchools organization, a collective of information schools dedicated to advancing the information field. The list of the membership directory of the leading iSchools shows the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is now one of few exceptions including “Library” in the name of the school. Renaming the School achieves the goals of:

- 1) explicitly identifying it in national and international contexts as a school with research and teaching strengths across the information sciences;
- 2) helping to attract students with a wider range of academic and career interests; and,
- 3) increasing visibility of the School’s strengths to potential funders and corporate partners.

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.