

Board Meeting
July 13, 2006

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON ACTIONS OF THE SENATES

Curricular Revision of Post-Master's Certificate in Health Informatics, Chicago

Since its informal inception in 1992, the Chicago campus' online health informatics certificate program has provided opportunities for self-motivated experienced health care or information technology professionals, who have already attained at least a master's level degree, to attain knowledge about the application and management of information technology within the health care setting. Formalized through the campus approval process as a campus certificate in spring 2005, the health informatics certificate signifies that graduates are conversant in the implementation, operation, and control of health information systems such as electronic health records, billing systems, radiologic imaging systems, and laboratory systems. Course work emphasizes development of a state of the art skill set and knowledge base grounded in health care information sciences. An M.S. in Health Informatics has already been approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Due to a rapid increase in the number of nationwide health informatics certificate programs--with marked variation in length, rigor, and overall quality of content--the existing program at the Chicago campus must strongly differentiate itself from apparent competitors in the informatics education market. By increasing the

number of credit hours to 24, the program falls under the guidelines of an official Post-Master's certificate, requiring review and acknowledgment by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Community Health Education, Master of Public Health, College of Public Affairs and Administration, Springfield

The Springfield Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Public Affairs and Administration to establish a Graduate Certificate in Community Health Education.

The Graduate Certificate in Community Health Education is designed to help students learn how to apply theoretical foundations of health education to communicate effectively with various audiences within the community. Students will learn how to assess health education needs, how to deliver health education, how to affect public health policy formulation and implementation, and how to use program evaluation to ensure that public health and education goals and objectives are being met.

The targeted audience for this certificate includes health professionals at the local, state, and federal level and other interested professionals in nonprofit or for-profit organizations who are interested in enhancing their knowledge and skills.

The 20-hour certificate includes five four-hour courses including community health research, public health policy, community health education, socio-cultural aspects of health, and program evaluation for health managers. The graduate

certificate will be administered by the Department of Public Health in association with its Master of Public Health program.

The certificate's courses are already in existence. No additional resources will be needed to offer this certificate.

Establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Epidemiology, Master of Public Health,
College of Public Affairs and Administration, Springfield

The Springfield Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Public Affairs and Administration to establish a Graduate Certificate in Epidemiology.

The Graduate Certificate in Epidemiology is designed to help students learn how to apply public health science theory and utilize analytical and computer skills to address public health issues. Obtaining an understanding of epidemiology and biostatistics is especially important given the global nature of public health problems and the essential role public health professionals play in health-related emergencies.

The targeted audience for this certificate includes health professionals at the local, state, and federal level and other interested professionals in nonprofit or for-profit organizations who are interested in enhancing their knowledge and skills.

The 20-hour certificate includes six courses (four of which are four hours and two of which are two hours) including biostatistics, foundations of epidemiology, computer applications in public health, laboratory sciences, infectious disease epidemiology, and analytical epidemiology or health economics. The program will be

administered by the Department of Public Health in association with its Master of Public Health program.

The certificate's courses are already in existence. No additional resources will be needed to offer this certificate.

Discontinue the Teacher Education Minor in Physical Education, College of Applied Health Sciences, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences to discontinue the Teacher Education Minor in Physical Education.

Due to the new flexibility in the Physical Education Endorsement now recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education and the lack of student interest, the minor is being discontinued. Students enrolled in a secondary education major who are interested in obtaining certification to teach physical education can do so by completing the Physical Education Endorsement. Therefore, the need for the Teacher Education Minor in Physical Education has become obsolete.

Establish the Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology Concentration in the Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish the Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology concentration in the Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology.

The Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology concentration is designed for students who wish to specialize in the subfields of Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology.

Building upon the size of the faculty in this area, this concentration will provide students with a structured exposure to a range of world areas, a range of topics in Anthropology, a course on research methods, and a capstone project experience. This area of study will prepare students to enter into a broad range of jobs and professions requiring research, writing, and analytical skills that will enable them to confront problems, issues, and situations requiring cultural sensitivities and detailed knowledge of other places in the world.

Establish a Graduate Minor in African American Studies,
Graduate College and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

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

The minor is designed to explore a wide range of information and scholarship in African American studies and its subfields. Students will have the opportunity to work with a broad and dynamic group of African Americanist scholars across the humanities and social sciences, and the arts and professions. African American Studies at the Urbana campus emphasizes historically specific critical analysis of black racial formation, the particular experiences of Black women, gender

construction, and African American agency, in the context of constantly evolving political economies, governmental policies, and popular culture.

Establish a Graduate Concentration in Digital Libraries, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Urbana

The Graduate College on behalf of the Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science to establish a graduate concentration in Digital Libraries within the Certificate of Advanced Study (C.A.S.) program.

Academic and research libraries have undergone profound changes in the past decade in order to provide new services supporting the use of digital materials in research and education. A critical change has been the creation of new organizational units such as the Digital Services and Development Unit within the Urbana campus Library. This unit and others like it will require staff with knowledge of both traditional library practices and the application of digital technologies in the creation, management, dissemination, and preservation of information. A concentration in digital libraries within the C.A.S. program will provide M.S. graduates the opportunities to enhance and extend their studies in order to qualify for positions in these new digital library units.