Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 22, 2021

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Board Meeting

July 22, 2021

MERGE THE DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND POLICY AND TRANSFER THE DOCTORATE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TO THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND POLICY, COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Merge the Departments of Human Services and Public Administration to

Establish the School of Public Management and Policy and Transfer the Doctorate of Public Administration to the School of Public Management and Policy, College of Public Affairs and Administration

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the advice of the Springfield Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Public Affairs and Administration to establish the School of Public Management and Policy.

This proposal has three objectives:

1. Transfer the Department of Human Services, currently housed in the College of Education and Human Services, to the College of Public Affairs and Administration.
2. Merge the Department of Human Services, currently housed in the College of Education and Human Services, and the Department of Public Administration, currently housed in the College of Public Affairs and Administration, into a single unit to establish the School of Public Management and Policy in the College of Public Affairs and Administration.
3. Transfer the Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) program, currently a stand-alone program in the College of Public Affairs and Administration, to the School of Public Management and Policy.

The Department of Human Services currently offers a Master of Arts in Human Services with several concentrations and certificates with a management focus on human services and nonprofit organizations. The Department of Public Administration currently offers a Bachelor of Arts in Public and Nonprofit Management, Master of Public Administration, one joint degree (Master of Public Administration/Master of Public Health), and multiple graduate certificates, while the College of Public Affairs and Administration offers the stand-alone DPA.

Both departments offering programs tailored to management and policy in the public and nonprofit sectors creates curricular and administrative overlap. In addition, each department currently targets similar students and provides community engagement and outreach efforts to similar stakeholders, which creates unnecessary competition between the departments. The establishment of the School of Public Management and Policy (SPMP) creates an opportunity to replace these overlaps with a dynamic partnership allowing the combined unit to build on their commonalities, as well as their individual strengths, such as the Department of Public Administration’s longstanding Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) accreditation.

In addition to reducing curricular overlap, the SPMP will provide more opportunities for students to better tailor their coursework to align with their career goals. For example, under the SPMP, Public Administration students will have more opportunities to take elective courses related to social services, while students in Human Services will have options to take courses in Public Administration, like budget and finance, to enhance their degree and career options. By combining the departments and their stakeholders, additional benefits for students include increased opportunities for internships and employment partnerships.

The formation of the School is a means to promote and facilitate contact among the units involved, and to present their common interest to higher administration and other parts of campus. A school structure such as SPMP is common for public affairs units since policy and management intersects with multiple fields, such as human services. In addition to creating additional benefits for students, the school structure is expected to improve efficiencies in areas such as course scheduling, while reducing administrative costs. With the common threads between the two departments, uniting them as the SPMP will strengthen existing interdisciplinary endeavors and facilitate the creation of news ones, which will be beneficial to students, faculty, the School and the institution. The establishment of the SPMP will also strategically position the School to expand in priority programming areas such as Public Finance and Procurement, Social Equity and Impact, and Data Analytics.

The SPMP will replace two existing Chairs with a single School Director. The remaining administrative structures will consist of several standing committees to assist in the functionality of the School alongside three Academic Program Leads. These Leads will replace existing program Directors to pare down the responsibilities of union-eligible faculty and centralize primary administrative responsibility with the School Director. There will be no change to the prefixes of courses, as those largely coincide with the degrees, not the units. The SPMP will be comprised of 11 tenure-track faculty, one clinical assistant professor, one lecturer, and one visiting assistant professor.

The merger and creation of the SPMP was voted on by the Curriculum Committees and faculty of the College of Education and Human Services and the College of Public Affairs and Administration and is supported by the Deans of both Colleges.

As part of this proposal, the Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) program, currently a stand-alone program in the College of Public Affairs and Administration, will be transferred to the SPMP. The proposed transfer of the DPA program to SPMP was reviewed and supported by the DPA Program Committee.

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 Interim 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 by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.