TRANSFER THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE, UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

Action: Transfer the Center for Public Safety and Justice, University Administration

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Chicago Senate and the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, recommends the transfer of the Center for Public Safety and Justice from the Institute of Government and Public Affairs, University Administration to the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, Chicago.

The Center for Public Safety and Justice (CPSJ) was established in 1997 at the University of Illinois at Springfield in the Institute of Public Affairs (now the Center for State Policy and Leadership) and in 2000 moved into the Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA). While CPSJ’s primary office is Springfield, a satellite office is located in Chicago. The Center is a grant-funded unit with 21 full- and part-time staff and student employees. The average grant expenditure over the past three years has been approximately $1.5 million per year, and the Center currently has twenty sponsored project accounts.
The Center’s mission is to promote public safety as a philosophy and practice for all members of a community. As such, it helps organizations redefine community safety, preparedness, and emergency management through partnerships and community engagement, organizational change and problem solving, education and training, and technical assistance. This mission is well aligned with the mission of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) as both work extensively on issues of public service, engaged research, and social justice. In addition, the transfer has the potential to increase academic programming opportunities around the broad themes of emergency management and emergency planning within the academic disciplines of public administration and urban planning. The work of the Center could be an important component of these two academic programs within CUPPA should the programs decide to expand their specializations and course offerings.

The transfer of the Center was initially discussed in December 2013 at the initiation of the Center and IGPA, as the work of the Center is tangential to the IGPA’s efforts to consolidate and refocus their efforts on their core mission, public policy research, and leadership training in service of the State of Illinois. Subsequent conversations with CUPPA were held to assess the benefits and costs of the transfer, and all parties have agreed the transfer would strengthen the organization and operation of their respective units. The units have articulated and agreed upon guidelines for how the transfer impacts personnel, financial operations, and space.

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.