

Board Meeting  
June 9, 2011

REORGANIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY,  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, CHICAGO

**Action:** Approve the Reorganization of the Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Vice President, University of Illinois and Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago with the concurrence of the Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost at the advice of the Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recommends approval to reorganize the Department of Psychology from its present structure of a department organized with a chair to a department organized with a head.

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 4, of the University of Illinois *Statutes*, the Department of Psychology voted on April 6, 2011, to change their mode of governance from a chairmanship to a headship. Fifteen of the faculty members voted in favor of changing the governance structure, while fourteen voted against the change. There were no abstentions and, according to College records, two faculty members did not turn in ballots.

Despite a narrow vote, the majority of the department endorses the change. After soliciting further comments and counsel from the department, the College

recommends a change from department chair to department head. Psychology is an excellent department and with strong leadership and vision could achieve even greater national prominence. Stronger structural leadership would benefit a department of this size and complexity – especially since it frequently interacts with other units external to the college. Moreover, since a chair serves only for three years, it is more difficult to make long-term plans or undertake significant initiatives at the departmental level.

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 President of the University recommends approval.