Approved by the Board of Trustees

May 19, 2022

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Board Meeting

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## RELOCATE THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION,

## COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Relocate the School of Education, 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 relocate the School of Education.

The School of Education, which consists of undergraduate programs in Teacher Education and graduate programs in Educational Leadership, was created within the College of Education and Human Services (CEHS) in July of 2021 as part of the academic reorganization at the University of Illinois Springfield. When the School of Education was created in the CEHS, it was done so with the understanding that the School would relocate to the College of Public Affairs and Administration (CPAA) should the CEHS be dissolved. The CEHS was dissolved in November of 2021 as part of the academic reorganization.

The School of Education currently offers two Master’s programs, five graduate certificates, two post-Master’s certificates and six Illinois State Board of Education Endorsements in Educational Leadership and four Bachelor’s programs in Teacher Education ranging from elementary to secondary education. The School provides programs where students are able to plan and follow a path to gain teacher certification, endorsement, a graduate degree and/or post-Master’s certificates.

With the School of Education’s mission to educate, train, and inspire teachers and educational leaders and the CPAA’s focus on public affairs, the relocation of the School to the CPAA is a natural fit. The CPAA places special emphasis on its distinctive disciplines, highlights active citizenship and education, prepares front line public servants and educators, and offers programs that contribute to understanding and solving today’s challenging public policy issues, such as the current teacher shortage.

The School of Education has an aggressive growth plan for the development and implementation of new programs to address the dire teacher shortage across the state and create a continuum of teacher/leader preparation. For example, the addition of blended and online programs will provide convenience for working non-traditional and paraprofessional students and online programs will also provide a vehicle for recruiting students outside of Illinois’ borders. Two important goals of the School of Education’s development plan for enhancing current programs and the development of new programs are to identify and implement high impact/low-cost programs and to identify new programs that will result in enrollment growth, but not require new resources, such as the development of an undergraduate non-licensure Education degree. The CPAA supports, embraces, and stands ready to assist in these initiatives. Addressing the teacher shortage in Illinois highlights just one area in which the addition of the School of Education to the CPAA is expected to increase synergies, cross-disciplinary research, and collaboration among the College faculty.

The administrative structure of the School of Education will remain the same in the CPAA, consisting of a Director to provide administrative leadership to the School and an Assistant Director who will assist the Director in administrative duties. An Executive Committee will continue to serve as a steering committee, overseeing the School’s assessment plan and initiatives related to the unit’s strategic plan. The School of Education is comprised of eight tenure track faculty, three non-tenure track faculty, and 22 adjunct faculty.

The relocation of the School of Education to the CPAA was voted on by the Curriculum Committee of the CEHS and was supported by the CEHS Dean before the elimination of the College. The relocation of the School of Education to the CPAA was voted on by the Curriculum Committee of the CPAA and is strongly supported by the CPAA Dean. The Springfield Senate approved the establishment of the School of Education in Resolution 50-38. In that resolution, the Springfield Senate stated its support for and recommendation that the School of Education be relocated to the CPAA in the event the CEHS was dissolved. Resolution 50-38 was approved by the Springfield Senate on April 9, 2021.

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 of Illinois System recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.