

Approved by the Board of Trustees
November 16, 2017

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Board Meeting
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REORGANIZE AND RENAME ILLINOIS ISSUES MAGAZINE AND WUIS PUBLIC
RADIO, OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS,
SPRINGFIELD

Action: Reorganize and Rename Illinois Issues Magazine and WUIS Public Radio,
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Springfield, and Vice President,
University of Illinois with the advice of the Springfield Senate recommends approval of a
proposal to reorganize the centers, *Illinois Issues* Magazine and WUIS Public Radio, and
to rename the unit NPR Illinois.

In a rapidly changing and increasingly competitive environment for news
media, *Illinois Issues* magazine has faced challenges in past years, while WUIS radio has
changed formats. *Illinois Issues* magazine had seen a steady reduction in print
subscribers for the past several years, like many other print magazines in the digital age.
In response to listener feedback, WUIS shifted from the traditional public radio format of
news and music to a mostly news format. Given these changes and the complementary
news coverage provided by each media outlet housed at UIS, *Illinois Issues* magazine and
WUIS public radio began to coordinate operations in 2014.

The merger of *Illinois Issues* and WUIS creates an integrated and more robust public journalism unit with oversight for both entities provided by one general manager and news director. The merger of the two smaller centers into a single unit has resulted in a 20 percent reduction in costs due to the elimination of duplicate functions.

In 2015, National Public Radio (NPR) gave WUIS permission to operate under the name “NPR Illinois” to clearly signal the role the radio station plays in the state capital and in covering news throughout the State of Illinois. In 2016, *Illinois Issues* ceased publishing its monthly magazine and converted into NPR Illinois’ brand for long-form journalism. At least one weekly article on a topical issue continues to be published on the NPR Illinois website under the *Illinois Issues* name.

Given all of these considerations, the units now request a formal renaming of the combined entities as NPR Illinois.

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 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 and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.