

Board Meeting
January 16, 2020

ESTABLISH THE HUMANITIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE, OFFICE OF THE VICE
CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION, URBANA

Action: Establish the Humanities Research Institute, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation to establish the Humanities Research Institute as a permanent institute.

Originally founded within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) in 1997, the entity currently known as the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (IPRH) seeks establishment as a permanent institute to be called the Humanities Research Institute (HRI). The proposed name change better reflects the breadth and vibrancy of programs offered through what is currently known as IPRH. Examples of such programming that are supported by the Mellon Foundation include partnering with academic units to foster research and undergraduate curricular development in the humanities and housing both graduate and postdoctoral fellows. In addition, IPRH leads the Odyssey Project, one of the university's programs that fosters community engagement and a pathway to higher education for income-eligible (150

percent of the federal poverty line) members of the local community. Programming is expected to expand in September 2020, as IPRH has been awarded a \$2 million grant from the Mellon Foundation to support interdisciplinary collaborative training for graduate programs in the humanities and the arts with a special emphasis on underrepresented minority students.

The proposed change to establish as an institute with permanent status will give HRI structural equivalence to other units that report to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation (OVCRI), the office of which IPRH has been a part since 2015 when it transitioned from LAS to OVCRI. Permanent status is also appropriate as the HRI's funding is stable and long-term. In addition to the Mellon grant-sponsored programming, the university has committed permanent funding to the HRI.

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.