Approved by the Board of Trustees

January 20, 2022

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Board Meeting

January 20, 2022

## ESTABLISH THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH, SCIENCE, AND TECHOLOGY, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Establish the College of Health, Science, and Technology

**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 joint proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Public Affairs and Administration to establish the College of Health, Science, and Technology (CHST). The request to create the CHST was submitted to the Springfield Senate on the recommendation of the Interim Chancellor.

Background, Composition, and Purpose of the CHST

The creation of a science-based college is a component of the third and final phase of the academic reorganization initiative at the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS), a project that began in 2019. Faculty from nine natural and social science departments engaged in collaborative discussions regarding structural changes that would unite and enhance existing programs and create room for growth and program revitalization. The resulting proposal to establish the CHST seeks to reorganize existing natural and social science departments and units into a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) oriented college that provides faculty improved access to resources; encourages the pursuit of cross-disciplinary opportunities; stimulates research; revitalizes curriculum; and offers programs for students that are responsive to current market and educational trends. Table 1 lists the departments and units that participated in the generation of this proposal and that support the creation of the CHST. All of the departments and units listed in Table 1 intend to migrate to the CHST.

Table 1: Departments and Units Proposing / Supporting the Establishment of CHST

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Departments Currently Housed in the  College of Liberal Arts and Sciences | Departments Currently Housed in the  College of Public Affairs and Administration | Additional Units |
| * Allied Health * Biology * Chemistry * Computer Science * Mathematical Sciences * Philosophy * Psychology | * Environmental Studies * Public Health | Therkildsen Field Station at Emiquon  Field Station at Lake Springfield  University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), College of Nursing, Springfield Campus |

The unification of science-based academic units and programs will allow faculty to establish policies and operating structures that will improve the units. Specific goals of creating the CHST are to enhance interdisciplinary relationships and curricula, link applied and basic sciences, provide UIS students with an exceptional educational experience as they discover linkages among disciplines, and provide a structure that allows for more collaborative academic and research programs.

In addition, the creation of a science-based college will further assist in identifying the current strength of UIS in the constituent fields; aid in student and faculty recruitment; and assist in efforts to seek additional funding sources by making it clear to potential students and faculty, private and public organizations. and state and federal policymakers that science education is a priority at UIS. By establishing the CHST, UIS is making a commitment to empower students and faculty to engage in the types of cutting-edge scientific and interdisciplinary research and training opportunities necessary to address contemporary and societal problems and to prepare students to excel in rewarding professional careers.

Administrative Structure and Timeline

Prior to academic reorganization, UIS had four colleges. With the elimination of the UIS College of Education and Human Services in the Fall of 2021, the addition of the CHST will keep the number of UIS colleges at four once the reorganization is complete. The CHST will be integrated into the academic reporting structure at UIS and the Dean of the CHST will report to the UIS Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The anticipated structure of the CHST includes two new schools, the merger of two academic departments, the relocation of two standalone departments, and the relocation of three units. Once the CHST is established, separate requests to establish the new schools and departments, as well as the relocation of existing departments and units that will comprise the CHST, will be proposed to the Board of Trustees in 2022.

No additional funding is requested to establish the CHST. Additional costs associated with the formation of the College will be provided by administrative cost- savings that result from the overall academic reorganization.

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