Approved by the Board of Trustees

January 20, 2022

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Board Meeting

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## ESTABLISH THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN DESIGN FOR RESPONSIBLE INNOVATION, COLLEGE OF FINE AND APPLIED ARTS AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Doctor of Philosophy in Design for Responsible Innovation,

College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College

**Funding:** Existing faculty will see a slight increase in workload to staff two new

courses and to advise the students. However, appreciable changes to existing class sizes, teaching loads, and student-faculty ratios are not expected based on anticipated enrollments.

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College to establish the Doctor of Philosophy in Design for Responsible Innovation.

The Ph.D. in Design for Responsible Innovation is a degree intended for master’s graduates from design and related disciplines to provide theory and skills in design research. The proposed program will engage students in creating and contributing to new knowledge through design research focused on developing objective, fair, nonpartisan and sustainable design actions, especially with regard to issues of contemporary debate such as environmental conservation, ethics, justice, equity, culture, and identity.

The program fulfills a growing need for a Ph.D. degree in design at an international level. So far, the MFA in Design has been considered the terminal degree in the academic field within the United States. The implementation of this general Ph.D. in Design for Responsible Innovation (DRI) aligns the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with educational and academic standards abroad. There is a market for this degree for students who have an interest in design research that extends beyond what they will have been able to receive in master’s programs. On the job market, the Ph.D. degree is expected to provide graduates with a competitive edge, either in academia, the public sector, or in industry, especially on strategic or management levels. The greatest demand is expected from domestic students who have previously completed graduate studies in design or in other generative disciplines, such as computer science, engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, and health. The program is also expected to attract international students with governmental funding packages, which are available from specific countries and continents abroad, for instance from Latin America, where there is a deficit of doctoral researchers in all fields, and governments are eager to financially support citizens to study abroad.

The proposed program will rely primarily on existing courses that are part of the MFA program, and the number of students enrolling is not expected to increase the class sizes to the extent of requiring additional sections. Two new courses will need to be staffed, and faculty advisors will need to be assigned for each Ph.D. student, which will increase the program faculty workload somewhat. However, since several of the Graphic Design faculty currently advise students in the Informatics Ph.D. program, the plan is that the advising load will just shift from there to this new degree. The School of Art and Design provides an annual allocation of teaching assistantships for each graduate program. The School will divide the allocation for Graphic Design between the MFA and Ph.D. programs and will pursue additional research funding in support of the students. No new or additional facilities, significant improvements to existing facilities, or additional resources from the University Library are needed.

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 by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.