Approved by the Board of Trustees

January 20, 2022

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Board Meeting

January 20, 2022

## ELIMINATE THE MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH,

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Eliminate the Master of Arts in English, College of Liberal Arts and

Sciences

**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 Liberal Arts and Sciences to eliminate the Master of Arts in English.

The Master of Arts in English began in 1993 as a traditional graduate English program covering literary history, special topics, and creative writing. Due to declining enrollments, the program was revised in 2015 and became a two-track digital humanities master’s program with concentrations in Digital Pedagogy and Digital Publishing. Although the revised curriculum did produce increased enrollments in part-time students, the revision did not produce the increased full-time enrollments that were projected. Due to continued low enrollment of full-time students, budgetary constraints, and course scheduling difficulties brought on by the two-track structure of the program, admissions to the program were suspended in 2019. The Department of English and Modern Languages voted to eliminate the Master of Arts in English in May of 2021. The elimination of the graduate program in English will allow the department to focus all resources on the undergraduate degree program and to provide imperative general education coursework to all undergraduate degree-seeking students.

Students currently enrolled in the English master’s degree program will be allowed to complete the degree within allowable time limits. No additional funding is required or requested to eliminate the degree program.

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.