Reported to the Board of Trustees

January 26, 2023

Board Meeting

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# PRESIDENT’S REPORT ON ACTIONS OF THE SENATES

Establish the Concentration in Detail and Fabrication within the Master of Architecture in Architecture, College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College to establish the concentration in Detail and Fabrication within the Master of Architecture in Architecture. The concentration provides students with the opportunity to gain design and technical knowledge that culminates in the Professional Degree in Architecture that allows graduates to pursue their Architecture license. Concentration coursework enables students to focus their study in an area of need and innovation in the Architecture profession, making them more competitive in the job market. Students in the Detail and Fabrication concentration will gain understanding of conceptual development of design, details, and materials combined with hands-on material experience and knowledge of digital tools such as 3D printers, robotic arms, scanners, and other fabrication equipment.

Eliminate the Concentration in Railway Engineering within the Master of Engineering in Engineering, The Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from The Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College to eliminate the concentration in Railway Engineering within the Master of Engineering in Engineering. Only three students have enrolled in the program since it started, with two of the three graduating and the third transferring to a different graduate program in the department. There are no currently enrolled students. Prospective students interested in this field can pursue the Railway Engineering track of study within the Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering program.

Establish the Concentration in Chemical Engineering Leadership within the Master of Engineering in Engineering, The Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from The Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College to establish the concentration in Chemical Engineering Leadership within the Master of Engineering in Engineering. The objective is to provide a unique learning experience that addresses a void at the intersection of engineering, business management, and leadership. Students will learn how the technical knowledge they bring to the table needs to be combined with business knowledge, decision-making skills, and team leadership to deliver successful business opportunities in a rapidly evolving business and technical climate. Industrial organizations need these skill sets for their leaders to succeed in today’s volatile and complex business environment. The target audience for the program is students with a bachelor of science in a science or engineering discipline seeking to develop their professional and business skills, making them competitive for leadership roles in engineering, science, and technology industries.

Eliminate the Concentration in Applied Learning Studies within the Bachelor of Science in Learning and Education Studies, College of Education, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Education to eliminate the concentration in Applied Learning Studies within the Bachelor of Science in Learning and Education Studies. Since the 2016-2017 academic year, enrollment has significantly declined in this concentration, with zero to one student enrolled for the last two academic years. There are no currently enrolled students. Students in the Learning and Education Studies major will still have three concentrations (Digital Environments for Learning, Teaching and Agency; Equality and Cultural Understanding; and Workplace Training and Development) from which they can choose.

Rename the Concentration in Molecular and Structural Biology in the Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences and Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences, College of Medicine and Graduate College, Chicago

The Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Medicine and Graduate College, has approved the renaming of the Concentration in Molecular and Structural Biology in the Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences and Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences as the Concentration in Molecular Biology and Genetics.

The Ph.D. and M.S. in Biomedical Sciences were established in Fall 2021 as the result of the consolidation of six graduate programs in the College of Medicine. Students in the biomedical sciences are required to complete one of six concentrations. Based on interviews with students, the colleges believe the concentration would attract more students if students understood more clearly that the study of genetics is a common element within the research done in the laboratories of faculty members in the concentration. Moreover, the title is a more accurate description, as not all students in the program are trained in structural biology, but they all do receive training in molecular biology and genetics. No changes to the degrees or concentration requirements are proposed.

Revise the Requirements for Highest Departmental Distinction for the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Integrated Health Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

The Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, has approved the revision of requirements for highest departmental distinction for the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Integrated Health Studies.

The Major in Integrated Health Studies (IHS) gives students the opportunity to explore the complexity of human health through a diverse, interdisciplinary curriculum in the life sciences, natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. Students must choose one of two concentrations in either Behavioral Health or Health and Science. The major awards both departmental distinction and highest departmental distinction to qualifying graduates. Currently, the honor of highest distinction is awarded to students with a minimum 3.50/4.00 grade point average (GPA) in courses approved for the IHS major and a minimum 3.30/4.00 cumulative GPA who have completed at least 2 credit hours of approved research. Subsequently, there will be a second route to earn highest departmental distinction, a minimum 3.70/4.00 GPA in courses approved for the IHS major and a minimum 3.30/4.00 cumulative GPA. The revision acknowledges that the program attracts students with a wide variety of interests and future career paths in the health field. For many of these students there may be better preparatory experiences than traditional research. As such, the college feels a lack of research experience should not disqualify high-achieving students from being recognized with highest departmental distinction.