Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 11, 2024

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Board Meeting

July 11, 2024

ELIMINATE THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN THE TEACHING OF PHYSICS, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, CHICAGO

**Action:** Eliminate the Bachelor of Science in the Teaching of Physics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Funding:** No new funding is required

The chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and vice president, University of Illinois System, with the advice of the University of Illinois Chicago Senate and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, recommends the elimination of the Bachelor of Science in the Teaching of Physics.

The Department of Physics proposes the elimination of the Bachelor of Science in the Teaching of Physics (coinciding with the elimination of the Minor in the Teaching of Physics). In Fall 2015, the Bachelor of Science in the Teaching of Physics and the minor were suspended by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the request of the Department of Physics. This was motivated, in part, by very low enrollments in both programs. The last degree had been awarded in 2012, and only one student was declared in the degree program at the time of suspension.

Moreover, even were the department to contemplate relaunching the degree program, changes have been made to the Illinois Professional Educator License that would require significant revisions to the curriculum that existed when the program was suspended in 2015. The Department of Physics does not currently have the faculty to sustain coursework related to the additional requirements for teacher education, nor the ability to support a resource-intensive degree program like the Bachelor of Science in the Teaching of Physics. As such, the department feels reviving the program is not realistic. Given that nearly a decade has now passed since the suspension of the program, formally eliminating the program will make the university’s catalog more accurate and provide prospective teaching students with a more realistic view of their academic options.

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