

Board Meeting
July 19, 2018

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
IN GEOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE, COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, URBANA

Action: Establish the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Geography and Geographic Information Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Geography and Geographic Information Science.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences currently offers a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Geography and Geographic Information Science (BALAS in GIS). This proposal, along with a companion report item, seeks to organize the concentrations that are currently tied to the existing BALAS in GIS so that those that are more social science-oriented will remain tied to the BALAS in GIS while those that are more physical/information science-oriented will be tied to the proposed Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Geography and Geographic Information Science (BSLAS in GIS).

As a federally-designated STEM field, geographic information science is more suited to a BS degree than a BA. Similarly, physical geography is a physical science and also more suited to a BS than to a BA. Current and prospective students have expressed interest in a BS program, and certain opportunities exist for students in STEM disciplines that are not currently available to undergraduate students in the existing Geography and Geographic Information Science major due to the fact that it is not paired with a BS degree. Accordingly, it is expected that the proposed BSLAS in GGIS will attract more majors, thereby making better use of existing resources in the department and the college.

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