Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 20, 2023

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Board Meeting

July 20, 2023

# ESTABLISH THE ILLINOIS GLOBAL INSTITUTE AS A PERMANENT INSTITUTE, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Illinois Global Institute as a Permanent Institute, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Funding:** No impact anticipated

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 Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish the Illinois Global Institute as a permanent institute.

The Illinois Global Institute (IGI) became a temporary status institute on the Illinois Board of Higher Education’s inventory in 2019. Since then, the IGI has organized a business operations unit, organized its internal governance and quality assurance processes, and pursued an external review. Additionally, its component units have had significant successes in grant development reflective of the longstanding strength of area and global studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Permanent status brings continuity to those efforts and their contributions to the university.

As part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, IGI was established in 2019 with temporary status to serve as the organizational and business operations home to the university’s 10 long-standing international area and global studies centers and thematic programs. Area studies are the multidisciplinary study of specific world regions or countries, and global studies are the multidisciplinary study of thematic questions in a global perspective, e.g., global health, gender equity, or arms control. The 10 centers and programs housed in IGI are: the Center for African Studies; the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies; the Center for Global Studies (CGS); the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies; the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES); the European Union Center; the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies; the Program in Arms Control and Domestic and International Security; the Russian, East European and Eurasian Center; and the Program on Women and Gender in Global Perspectives (WGGP). IGI’s mission is to sustain engagement with world regions and global themes in teaching, research, and public engagement at UIUC through both support of its component units and of the extensive range of international engagement by UIUC faculty.

The significance of this global engagement by IGI is reflected in strong external funding and the national and international recognition IGI units receive. IGI units have held Department of Education Title IV National Resource Center (NRC) program and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) grants steadily since 1959. UIUC currently holds the second-largest number of NRC awards in the nation. Additionally, IGI units have received over $20 million in endowment gift funds as well as grants from both U.S. and international foundations. These successes create an extraordinary range of pathways for learning and research, connected to the centers’ extensive public engagement mission and commitment to PK-12 and community college educational outreach across the state. IGI and its component units reach every college and school at UIUC, with over 600 affiliated faculty; $1.78 million awarded in research, travel, and language study fellowships, awards, and scholarships in the current academic year; millions of dollars in research support to students and faculty from UIUC and other institutions; support for the Less Commonly Taught Languages at UIUC; course development grants; and statewide public engagement and educational outreach events – 414 in the current academic year that were open to the public; and collaboration on campus initiatives such as the Chancellor’s Call to Action to Address Racism and Social Injustice, The Global and its Worlds, Migration and Refugees in Global Perspectives Initiative, and the Scholars at Risk network. Three units in IGI offer undergraduate majors and minors, five centers offer MA degrees, and seven offer graduate minors. Beginning in 2023, the major in Global Studies, previously housed independently within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, moved its administrative line into the IGI.

Companion action items seek permanent status for three of IGI’s constituent units: the Center for Global Studies, the Program on Women and Gender in Global Perspectives, and the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. The Center for African Studies; the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies; the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies; the European Union Center; the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies; and the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center already have permanent status. Permanent institute status for the umbrella entity housing these centers makes sense at this time.

Establishment as a permanent institute does not impact IGI’s funding, faculty affiliations with the IGI or constituent units, students, or facilities. Permanent status is strongly supported by the advisory committee, council of directors, faculty affiliates, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which houses IGI.

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.