Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 20, 2023

Board Meeting

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# PRESIDENT’S REPORT ON ACTIONS OF THE SENATES

## Establish the Campus Graduate Certificate in Business Analytics, Gies College of Business and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the Gies College of Business and the Graduate College to establish the Campus Graduate Certificate in Business Analytics. Designed for learners who are not interested in pursuing a full degree but rather wish to build skills in business analytics, the program includes content in strategy, methods, tools, and applications of analytics that are widely used across business disciplines. Professions with high demand for these skills include data analyst, analytics manager, project manager, data architect, statistician, market research analyst, accounting analyst, financial analyst, and consultant.

## Establish the Joint Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Integrative Biology and Master of Science in Integrative Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College to establish the joint Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Integrative Biology and Master of Science in Integrative Biology (BSLAS and MS in IB). The BSLAS and MS in IB will provide a streamlined pathway for students seeking advanced preparation for professional school or future careers in industry, government, or academia, as well as those impacted by the pandemic in terms of loss of in-person laboratory experience. The one-year, non-thesis MS, with advanced-level coursework in areas such as bioinformatics and genomics, will enable students from the BSLAS a more affordable, less time-consuming opportunity to earn a master’s degree. Through the advanced laboratory coursework, the joint degree program will build skills in high demand in research, industry, and further graduate work.

## Establish the Campus Graduate Certificate in Mergers and Acquisitions, Gies College of Business and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the Gies College of Business and the Graduate College to establish the Campus Graduate Certificate in Mergers and Acquisitions. Designed for learners who are not interested in pursuing a full degree but rather wish to build skills in mergers and acquisitions, the program includes content in using financial accounting and finance to express the economic realities of complex organizations as well as the deal structures and transactions that shape the design of these organizations. The coursework includes a project that is a real-life investment banking case assignment, simulating the work that a Wall Street investment banking firm would deliver to a client. Professions with high demand for these skills include accountants, financial analysts, investment bankers, private investors, including those in private equity and venture capital, chief financial officers, corporate development, general managers who want to learn more about the corporate finance role, and corporate lawyers who want to get closer to financial and accounting topics.

## Revise the Master of Arts in Museum and Exhibition Studies, College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts and Graduate College, Chicago

The Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts and the Graduate College, has approved the revision of the Master of Arts in Museum and Exhibition Studies.

The MA in Museum and Exhibition Studies is an interdisciplinary program with a social justice focus. It emphasizes the evolving social and political contexts of cultural institutions and prepares students for professional practice.

Currently, the degree requires 52 credit hours, including core courses, electives, and a supervised internship. This proposal eliminates the internship course as a degree requirement. Students will still have the option to enroll in the course as an elective. As a result of this change, the degree will now require only 48 credit hours total.

While internships are critical for many students in this field, unpaid internships can be a contributing factor to inequality. Requiring students to complete an internship may result in some students taking unpaid internships even when financially detrimental. Other students may have to delay their internship plans based on financial considerations, impacting their progress towards graduation. Additionally, one benefit of eliminating the internship requirement is that students will now be eligible to apply for the Provost’s Graduate Internship Award.

## Revise the Master of City Design, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs and Graduate College, Chicago

The Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs and the Graduate College, has approved the revision of the Master of City Design.

The Master of City Design was established in 2019. The program requires 38 credit hours, including seven required courses (34 credit hours total) and one 4-credit-hour course from a list of selectives.

The proposed revision will make CD 522 (Chicago Charette I) into a required 2-credit-hour course, instead of a required 4-credit hour course. This will result in a reduction of the total credit hours required to earn the degree from 38 to 36. The program’s experience with its past two cohorts has indicated that the course’s content could optimally be delivered within a 2-credit-hour course.

## Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in English and the Master of Arts in English, and Eliminate the Concentrations in English Studies (MA and PhD), Creative Writing (MA and PhD), and English Education (MA), College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Graduate College, Chicago

The Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, has approved the revision of the Doctor of Philosophy in English and the Master of Arts in English, and the elimination of the concentrations in English Studies (MA and PhD), Creative Writing (MA and PhD), and English Education (MA).

The Department of English proposes several revisions to the MA and PhD in English. First, all selective requirements will be eliminated in both degrees, such that the coursework component of the degrees will now be based entirely on electives and one required seminar course in each program. Second, there will no longer be transcriptable concentrations. MA and PhD students will instead pursue an area of emphasis: English studies, creative writing, or English education.

Four other changes relate only to the PhD program: 1) elimination of the language requirement 2) updated admissions expectations for creative writing applicants 3) the addition of an English education area of emphasis, and 4) clarification within the catalog of the credit hours required for the degree, including required hours related to the preliminary exam and prospectus preparation.

For the MA, the department will now require students to complete 4 credit hours of ENGL 597 (MA Project Preparation), instead of the current 0-4 credit hours.

## Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy, College of Public Affairs and Education, Springfield

The Springfield Campus Senate approved a proposal from the College of Public Affairs and Education to revise the Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy.

The Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy began in Fall 2016. The initial program review proposed that the faculty streamline course requirements and improve the student experience. Based on these recommendations, the School of Politics and International Affairs (SPIA) is proposing to implement three changes to the current degree requirements: eliminate curricular tracks, reduce the number of prerequisites for the major, and add an internship requirement.

The first change unifies the curriculum by eliminating curricular tracks. Currently, students must choose one of two tracks: American or comparative/ international relations. Because public policy is not enacted or analyzed differently based on whether it occurs domestically or internationally, distinct tracks are unnecessary. Eliminating these tracks will streamline the curriculum and allow students to take classes that serve their academic and professional interests.

The second change reduces the number of prerequisite courses from three courses to one course. Currently, students must complete: 1) three prerequisite courses 2) one of two political science courses and 3) microeconomics and macroeconomics. After reviewing course syllabi, faculty determined the content of both political science prerequisite course options are covered in an existing core course and supplemented by elective courses. The political science prerequisite course, then, can be eliminated without compromising the learning objectives of the public policy program.

Because topics covered in microeconomics are less foundational to the study of national and international policymaking than macroeconomics, the program will eliminate the microeconomics prerequisite. The revised curriculum will require students to take one prerequisite macroeconomics course and reduce the number of prerequisites for the public policy major from nine hours to three hours.

The six hours of prerequisite coursework will be replaced by a six-credit hour internship. The addition of an internship to the public policy curriculum aligns with the program’s goals to provide students with experience in applied politics and policymaking to prepare them for careers in government, legislative affairs, and public policy advocacy.

The proposed revisions to the public policy BA will not change the number of courses required to complete the program and the total number of credit hours required to complete the major will remain unchanged at 41.