Reported to the Board of Trustees

July 21, 2022

Board Meeting

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PRESIDENT’S REPORT ON ACTIONS OF THE SENATES

Establish the Campus Graduate Certificate in Accounting Foundations, 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 Accounting Foundations. This program is designed to enhance students’ technical knowledge and skills in accounting and further develop their professional competencies in critical thinking, communication, and decision making. Whether a student owns their own enterprise, works for a business, governmental, or not-for-profit entity, or serves numerous business clients, a proficiency in the fundamentals of accounting is increasingly vital for business professionals. Professions where these skills are in high demand include audit and assurance services, corporate accounting, taxation, financial management, business analytics, and consulting and advisory services. The Campus Graduate Certificate in Accounting Foundations is designed for learners who have earned a bachelor’s degree who do not desire to pursue a full master’s degree but have an interest in gaining foundational skills in this space.

Establish the Campus Graduate Certificate in CPA Pathways, 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 CPA Pathways. The proposed program is designed to enhance students’ technical knowledge and skills in financial accounting, taxation, and accounting analytics as well as to build their professional competencies in critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and decision making. Whether a student owns their own enterprise, works for a business, governmental, or not-for-profit entity, or serves numerous business clients, a proficiency in the fundamentals of financial accounting, taxation, and accounting data analytics is increasingly vital for business professionals. Professions where these skills are in high demand include audit and assurance services, corporate accounting, taxation, financial management, business analytics, and consulting and advisory services. The Campus Graduate Certificate in CPA Pathways is designed for learners who have earned a bachelor’s degree who do not desire to pursue a full master’s degree but have an interest in becoming eligible for the Uniform Certified Public Accountant exam and licensure.

Establish the Campus Graduate Certificate in Taxation, 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 Taxation. The proposed program is designed to enhance students’ technical tax knowledge, skills, and professional opportunities. Whether a student owns their own enterprise, works for a company, or serves numerous business clients, proficiency in the fundamentals of taxation is increasingly vital for business professionals. Professions in which these skills are in high demand include auditors, finance managers, management accountants, business analysts, tax accountants, and both tax and financial advisors. The Campus Graduate Certificate in Taxation is designed for learners who have earned a bachelor’s degree who do not have the desire to pursue a full master’s degree at this time but have an interest in gaining foundational skills in this space.

Establish the Concentration in Professional Education--Licensure Within the Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education, College of Education, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Education to establish the concentration in Professional Education--Licensure within the Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education (B.S. in ECE). Under Public Act 102-0174, all public institutions of higher education with Early Childhood programs are required to establish completion pathways designed for working adults for individuals in the incumbent early childhood workforce. This concentration is designed in alignment with the requirements of the legislation to establish a track to bachelor’s degree completion for students in the early childhood workforce pipeline who already have completed an associate’s degree. Special consideration has been given to the coursework required to ensure quality early childhood teacher preparation for all students that will be continuing their work in the early childhood field. This concentration offers students an option to graduate with entitlement for the Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL).

Establish the Concentration in Professional Education--Non-Licensure Within the Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education, College of Education, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Education to establish the concentration in Professional Education--Non-Licensure within the Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education (B.S. in ECE). Under Public Act 102-0174, all public institutions of higher education with Early Childhood programs are required to establish completion pathways designed for working adults for individuals in the incumbent early childhood workforce. This concentration is designed in alignment with the requirements of the legislation to establish a track to bachelor’s degree completion for students in the early childhood workforce pipeline who already have completed an associate’s degree. Special consideration has been given to the coursework required to ensure quality early childhood teacher preparation for all students that will be continuing their work in the early childhood field. This concentration offers students an option to graduate without entitlement for the Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL) as licensure is not required to teach in many early childhood settings. Coursework will be identical to that of the report item above, the Professional Education--Licensure concentration, with the exception of an internship rather than a student teaching experience.

Establish the Undergraduate Minor in Dance, College of Fine and Applied Arts, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to establish the undergraduate minor in Dance. The minor will follow a curriculum that embraces multiple forms and perspectives on dance. Students will gain ability to move, speak, and write with an understanding of various dance forms’ rich cultural histories; move, speak, and write with an understanding of the potential intersectionality of dance with other fields of study; and model embodied presence in all aspects of learning and citizenship. Recent studies show that participation in dance programs helps students develop skills such as creativity and persistence, which benefit them in the classroom and beyond. Many undergraduate students come to the university with an interest in and history of participating in dance. For such students who do not pursue a major in dance, the minor offers an opportunity to continue their study and build this interest.

Establish the Minor in Comparative Cultural 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 establishment of the Minor in Comparative Cultural Studies.

Within the college, the School of Literatures, Cultural Studies, and Linguistics includes nine departments and programs whose curricula primarily focus on cultural studies, cultural competency, cross-cultural communication, and critical thinking skills through the study of non-U.S. literatures, film and visual media, and culture. The school proposes the creation of a Minor in Comparative Cultural Studies, drawing on courses from within the school’s curricula. Ultimately, students in this minor will deepen their cultural competencies and their capacity for critical, social, and theoretical analysis and cross-cultural communication.

The 15-credit-hour minor is designed to enable students to critically engage with difference, cultural diversity, variety of expression, and distinct ways of being, knowing, and acting as expressed through literature, film and other visual media, and popular culture produced outside the U.S. The minor will be anchored by one required course (3 credit hours); students will select four additional courses (12 credit hours) that focus on cultural production in a variety of forms from at least two subject areas, with no more than six credit hours in a single subject area.

Establish the Concentration in Financial Planning in the Bachelor of Science in Finance, College of Business Administration, Chicago

The Chicago Senate with the recommendation of the College of Business Administration has approved the establishment of the Concentration in Financial Planning in the Bachelor of Science in Finance.

Within the B.S. in Finance, students are already required to complete 15 credit hours in finance electives. Students will now have the option to use those credit hours specifically to complete the Concentration in Financial Planning. There is a large and growing market for financial planning and related advisory services; in addition, many other jobs involve financial planning responsibilities. Students in the B.S. in Finance would benefit from being prepared for career opportunities in this area.

Students in the Concentration in Financial Planning will complete four courses required for the concentration (12 credit hours), relating to personal finance, risk management and insurance, retirement and estate planning, and financial plan development. Students will also complete three credit hours from a list of selectives.

Establish the Undergraduate Campus Certificate in Academic Spanish for Heritage Speakers, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

The Chicago Senate with the recommendation of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, has approved the establishment of the Undergraduate Campus Certificate in Academic Spanish for Heritage Speakers.

This program will help Spanish heritage students to develop academic oral, writing, and literacy competencies in Spanish, skills that can be applied in academic settings and in future professional settings. Most heritage speakers do not receive formal content instruction in their heritage language, and their skills in this language therefore may be significantly weaker than their skills in English.

Students will complete five courses to earn the 16-credit-hour campus certificate. This includes three required core language courses that focus on the acquisition of oral and written skills. Students are also required to complete two additional Spanish courses at the 200-level or above. The majority of courses fitting this description are taught in Spanish and require substantial amounts of speaking, reading, and writing in the target language. Only one course taught in English may count towards these elective credit hours. Students must complete all courses with grades of C or better.

Establish the Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Analytics within the Master of Science in Healthcare Informatics, College of Business and Management, Springfield

The Springfield Senate with the recommendation of the College of Business and Management (CBM) has approved the establishment of the Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Analytics.

There is an increasing need in healthcare organizations for professionals who can generate meaningful insights and make data-driven decisions from the massive amount of data generated by digital systems, such as electronic health records and electronic billing. The nine-hour online certificate in Healthcare Analytics will provide business and technology practitioners, healthcare professionals, and other informatics professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to collaborate in the design, development, and adoption of healthcare analytics applications in organizations. Completion of the certificate will prepare students to make data-driven decisions in leadership and management roles in private, public, and nonprofit healthcare organizations.

Because the only requirement to enter the certificate program is an undergraduate degree and the courses are offered in an expedited eight-week format, it is expected the certificate program will be of interest to students both within and external to CBM as an opportunity to enhance their job marketability and career advancement. In addition, it is anticipated the certificate program may serve as a gateway to the Master of Science in Healthcare Informatics, as some students completing the certificate program may choose to continue on to pursue the advanced degree.

No additional funding or resources are required to initiate or sustain the certificate, as the curriculum consists of three courses currently taught by existing faculty within the Healthcare Informatics program.