Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 22, 2021

15

Board Meeting

July 22, 2021

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION DEGREE AND CHANGE THE DEGREE DESIGNATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE HEALTH ADMINISTRATION MAJOR, COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Master of Health Administration Degree and Change the

Degree Designation Associated with the Health Administration Major,

College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College

**Funding:** This proposal seeks establishment of a new degree title and remapping an existing major to that degree. The curriculum and programmatic activities are already in place and being taught by current faculty; thus, no additional resources are needed for this proposal.

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 Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College to establish the Master of Health Administration (MHA) degree and change the degree designation associated with the major in Health Administration so that it maps to the MHA degree rather than the M.S., which is where it currently maps.

Changing the name of the degree to MHA is sought to help with recognition, marketing, and recruitment for the program. Program staff find themselves having to explain to prospective students and employers what the M.S. in Health Administration is, as the MHA is the more recognized degree nationally. Currently, prospective students seeking the MHA are put off by the MSHA, as they worry, they will not be competitive on the job market.

By establishing the degree “Master of Health Administration” and changing the major in Health Administration’s designation such that it maps to the Master of Health Administration rather than to the Master of Science, it is expected to be more easily recognizable and in better alignment with other similar programs. The existing M.S. in Health Administration is already nationally accredited by the Council for Education on Public Health (CEPH). CEPH supports this proposal and continuation of national accreditation of the program. Students will continue to be educated in the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for leadership roles in healthcare. Graduates will work in settings including but not limited to clinics, hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers, government, long-term care, insurance, pharmaceuticals, and start-ups related to healthcare and health outcomes. Upon approval, all students currently in the M.S. in Health Administration would be informed of the change and given the option to transfer to the Master of Health Administration degree; thereafter, the M.S. in Health Administration would be phased down and eliminated.

Based on enrollment projections, class sizes are expected to increase by five to ten students per class. Since most courses in the current program are small, with ten students or less, accommodating the additional students in them is reasonable. Should faculty need additional teaching assistants, that adjustment will be made within the department, and funding will be covered by tuition revenue from the program. No additional administrative, technology, facility, or University Library resources are needed.

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 Interim 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. The action is subject to further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.