Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 22, 2021

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Board Meeting

July 22, 2021

CHANGE THE STATUS AND RENAME THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE TO ESTABLISH THE SCHOOL OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Change the Status and Rename the Department of Political Science to

Establish the School of Politics and International Affairs, College of Public

Affairs and Administration

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the advice of the Springfield Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Public Affairs and Administration to establish the School of Politics and International Affairs.

The Department of Political Science within the College of Public Affairs and Administration (CPAA) has expanded over the years to encompass four separate and distinct academic programs: Global Studies, Political Science, Public Affairs Reporting, and Public Policy. The Department now accounts for about one-third of all of the students in the College. Due to the growth of the Department of Political Science, the name and department structure no longer adequately describes and supports these programs. Because each program currently operates invisibly under the Department of Political Science umbrella, CPAA proposes changing the Department of Political Science from a department structure to a school structure and establishing the School of Politics and International Affairs (SPIA).

The proposed SPIA will be comprised of the same four academic programs of Global Studies, Political Science, Public Affairs Reporting, and Public Policy, establishing an aptly-named School that will bring visibility to its three undergraduate majors, two Master’s programs, one integrated Bachelor’s and Master’s program, two minors, and one graduate certificate program. The establishment of a School that reflects the various programs it houses will raise the profile of the programs, and enhance the marketing and promotion of each program, which is expected to lead to increased enrollments.

In addition, moving from Department to School status will provide a host of opportunities to engage with peer institutions both domestically and internationally. For example, School status will open the door for SPIA to possibly become an affiliate member of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA), an international association of schools that offer degrees in both public and international affairs. Becoming an APSIA member would further increase the visibility and profile of the SPIA and serve as a strong recruiting tool for students and faculty.

Housed within the same building with the UIS Center for State Policy and Leadership, the SPIA will expand existing collaborations with the Center to create additional research and internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students interested in State politics, public policy, and social innovation, building on the already robust presence the Department has in State politics. In continuing the strong partnership forged between the Department of Political Science and the UIS Survey Research Office, SPIA can explore the addition of new programs, such as a minor or certificate in Public Opinion and Survey Research. With many alumni of the Department of Political Science involved in politics at the local, state, federal, and international levels, the School will provide a platform to profile its strong alumni network and faculty expertise by offering on-ground and online events to engage various communities, serving as an additional recruiting tool for potential students and faculty.

The School will be led by a Director, who will oversee a mix of ten full-time non-tenure, tenure-track, and tenured faculty.  A coordinator of graduate studies and a coordinator of undergraduate studies will report to the Director.  Although the administrative functions of the SPIA will be centralized, each program will continue to offer its courses under its existing course prefixes.

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.