Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 22, 2021

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Board Meeting

July 22, 2021

MERGE THE DEPARTMENTS OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP TO ESTABLISH THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Merge the Departments of Teacher Education and Educational Leadership

to Establish the School of Education, College of Education and Human

Services

**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 Education and Human Services to establish the School of Education.

The College of Education and Human Services proposes the creation of a School of Education to be comprised by merging the current Department of Educational Leadership and the Department of Teacher Education. The Department of Educational Leadership currently offers two Master’s programs, five graduate certificates, two post-Master’s certificates and six Illinois State Board of Education Endorsements. The Department of Teacher Education currently offers four Bachelor’s programs ranging from elementary to secondary education. Merging the two departments will create a single school that provides programs where students will be able to plan and follow a path to gain teacher certification, endorsement, a graduate degree and/or post-Master’s certificates.

The creation of a School of Education will allow a better alignment of curricular offerings to ensure programming remains innovative and combine a faculty of experts in teacher education and educational leadership to increase cross-disciplinary research and collaboration. This reorganization will allow for more interactive academic and engagement experiences for students, provide increased visibility among the communities and P-12 partners served, and streamline marketing and recruitment efforts for all of the educational programs offered.

The School has outlined an aggressive growth plan for the development and implementation of new programs to address the dire teacher shortage across the state and create a continuum of teacher/leader preparation. For example, the addition of blended and online programs will provide convenience for working non-traditional and paraprofessional students and online programs will also provide a vehicle for recruiting students outside of Illinois’ borders. Two important goals of the School of Education’s development plan for enhancing current programs and the development of new programs is to identify and implement high impact/low-cost programs and to identify new programs that will result in enrollment growth, but not require new resources, such as the development of an undergraduate non-licensure Education degree.

The administrative structure of the School of Education will consist of a Director to provide administrative leadership to the School and an Assistant Director who will assist the Director in administrative duties. An Executive Committee will serve as a steering committee, overseeing the School’s assessment plan and initiatives related to the unit’s strategic plan. Each academic area will be responsible for their own curriculum, maintaining their individual courses and course prefixes. The School of Education will be comprised of eight tenure track faculty, three non-tenure track faculty and 22 adjunct faculty.

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.