Approved by the Board of Trustees

March 17, 2022

**17**

Board Meeting

March 17, 2022

## ESTABLISH THE DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING AND SOCIAL WORK, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Establish the Department of Counseling and Social Work, College of

Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Funding:** No funding impact is expected, as this proposal does not change class sizes, student-faculty ratios, or other metrics.

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 Department of Counseling and Social Work in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Department of Human Development Counseling, previously housed in the recently eliminated College of Education and Human Services, offers a Master in Human Development Counseling and three concentrations, which are externally accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

The Department of Social Work, also previously housed in the recently eliminated College of Education and Human Services, offers a Bachelor of Social Work, which is externally accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

A component of the academic reorganization at the University of Illinois Springfield, this proposal seeks to merge the Department of Human Development Counseling and the Department of Social Work into one administrative unit to be named the Department of Counseling and Social Work. Located within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the proposed department will house both academic programs and approximately ten faculty members. To meet the requirements of external accrediting agencies, the administrative structure of the new department will include a program director of social work who will report to a chair who will oversee the department. This structure, which is agreeable to both external accreditors, is also utilized at other institutions.

Bringing the Counseling and Social Work departments together into one academic and administrative unit is expected to promote continued and increased synergy between both sets of social service faculty. Because the Counseling program only offers a graduate degree and the Social Work program only offers an undergraduate degree, competition between the two departments for students is not a concern. Bringing the two departments together, however, may serve as a recruiting tool for the Counseling program, as it is anticipated that some students in the undergraduate Social Work program may be interested in continuing their education as graduate students in the Counseling program.

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 of Illinois System recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.