Approved by the Board of Trustees

March 17, 2022

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Board Meeting

March 17, 2022

## ESTABLISH THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES AND PHILOSOPHY, COLLEGE OF HEALTH, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Establish the Department of Mathematical Sciences and Philosophy,

College of Health, Science, and Technology

**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 Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish the Department of Mathematical Sciences and Philosophy in the College of Health, Science, and Technology.

A component of the academic reorganization at the University of Illinois Springfield, this proposal seeks to merge the Department of Mathematical Sciences and the Department of Philosophy into one administrative unit to be named the Department of Mathematical Sciences and Philosophy. Both currently housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, each program offers both a Bachelor of Arts and a minor in their respective disciplines.

There is a widely recognized connection between the disciplines of mathematics and philosophy, which grew out of an interest in symbolic logic and the application of formal methods to philosophical problems, and involved results with profound implications for the theoretical foundations of mathematics. In recognition of this connection, other institutions have formed joint math-philosophy departments.

Located within the new College of Health, Science, and Technology, the proposed Department of Mathematical Sciences and Philosophy will house both academic programs and approximately ten full-time faculty. By bringing together faculty with aligned yet complementary interests, the formation of a joint Mathematics and Philosophy unit has the potential to create valuable synergies in the forms of both scholarly and curricular collaborations, as well as increased opportunities for student engagement, scholarship, and research. The single unit structure, which will be headed by a chair, will streamline the administrative functions of the department.

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.