Approved by the Board of Trustees

March 28, 2024

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Board Meeting

March 28, 2024

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, MAJOR IN LINGUISTICS, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, CHICAGO

**Action:** Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Linguistics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Funding:** No new funding is required

The chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and vice president, University of Illinois System, with the advice of the University of Illinois Chicago Senate and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, recommends the establishment of the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Linguistics.

The new major provides students with a comprehensive understanding of language, including its structure and use and the role that language plays in cognition, communication, and society. The major combines theory and practical applications to equip students with the skills to analyze language, understand the sociocultural context of language usage and change, and conduct research in various linguistic domains. Graduates will be able to pursue graduate studies in cognitive science, computational linguistics, communication studies, linguistic anthropology, and speech-language pathology. Graduates will also be well prepared to enter professions relating to linguistics, education, and government, such as linguistic research and analysis, teaching and curriculum, testing and assessment, data processing, cross-cultural communication, translation and interpretation, foreign service and diplomacy, and language revitalization and preservation efforts in indigenous and marginalized communities.

The degree requires 120 credit hours in total, including general education and major coursework. The major itself requires a minimum of 27 credit hours, including two required introductory courses (6 credit hours) and three courses (9 credit hours) selected from a list of four foundational courses in relation to syntax; phonetics and phonology; semantics and pragmatics; and language acquisition, language contact, and bilingualism. This structure also aligns with the Bachelor of Science in Computer Sciences and Linguistics and the minor in Linguistics, giving the students in these growing programs the option to transition into the major in Linguistics. The remaining 12 credit hours are in elective coursework in linguistics.

As the courses needed to complete the new major are already part of the department’s course rotation, the faculty, staff, and resources necessary to offer the program are already in place. The Department of Linguistics also has a collaborative relationship with other linguistics faculty within the School of Literatures, Cultural Studies and Linguistics. As the major grows towards its goal of 40 students when in full implementation, a lecturer and a graduate assistant will be added; tuition-related revenue will cover any new costs.

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 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 by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.