Reported to the Board of Trustees

May 18, 2023

 Board Meeting

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# PRESIDENT’S REPORT ON ACTIONS OF THE SENATES

Revise the Doctor of Medicine in Medicine, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the Carle Illinois College of Medicine to revise the Doctor of Medicine in Medicine (MD). These revisions change the total credit hours for the program from 211 to 202. The original proposal for this degree program was a framework, and courses were under development during the proposal phase. When the original proposal was approved in 2018, it was using credit estimates and not exact hours implemented by the Carle Illinois College of Medicine. This revision updates the total minimum required to properly align with the courses required for the MD. The program met and continues to meet Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) accreditation requirements to prepare students for success on all parts of the required United States Medical Licensing Examinations.

Eliminate the Concentration in Computational Genomics in the Master of Engineering in Bioengineering, The Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from The Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College to eliminate the concentration in Computational Genomics in the Master of Engineering in Bioengineering. This program was offered for only one year, enrolling eight students. One student dropped out of the program, six graduated in 2018, and the final enrolled student graduated in 2019. Faculty resources are not sufficient to teach the core concentration-required courses, and it is not part of the department’s faculty hiring plan to add faculty in this area. Students interested in the field can pursue other concentrations offered by the Department of Bioengineering.

Eliminate the Concentration in Pharmaceutical Engineering in the Master of Engineering in Bioengineering, The Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from The Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College to eliminate the concentration in Pharmaceutical Engineering in the Master of Engineering in Bioengineering. This concentration never accepted applications and thus never had any enrolled students. Faculty resources are not sufficient to teach the core concentration-required courses, and it is not part of the department’s faculty hiring plan to add faculty in this area. Students interested in the field can pursue other concentrations offered by the Department of Bioengineering.

Eliminate the concentration in Biomechanics, Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College to eliminate the concentration in Biomechanics. Since its approval in 2015, only one student has enrolled in the Biomechanics concentration, and that student completed their program. Core courses in the concentration have not been offered in several years, and there are no plans to resurrect these courses. Prospective students can explore other programmatic options available from the Department of Bioengineering.

Eliminate the Concentration in Cancer Nanotechnology, The Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from The Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College to eliminate the concentration in Cancer Nanotechnology. Since its approval in 2015, only two students have enrolled in the Cancer Nanotechnology concentration and both have completed their programs. Three core courses in the concentration have not been taught for several years, and there are no plans at this time to resurrect these courses. Prospective students can explore other programmatic offerings in the Department of Bioengineering.

Eliminate the Joint Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering and Master of Engineering in Materials Engineering, The Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from The Grainger College of Engineering and the Graduate College to eliminate the joint Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering and Master of Engineering in Materials Engineering. This joint program has never had an enrolled student nor received an application. Students can still separately pursue and complete the Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering and Master of Science in Engineering in Materials Engineering.

Eliminate the Concentration in Business and Public Policy, Gies College of Business and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the Gies College of Business and the Graduate College to eliminate the concentration in Business and Public Policy. Designed to serve the masters programs offered by Gies, the concentration initially had robust enrollment. Over time, students’ interests declined, turning more toward business analytics. Core courses in the concentration have been phased out and deactivated due to low enrollment and other teaching demands. Accordingly, the decision was made to eliminate the concentration and reallocate resources to areas of greater need.

Eliminate the Concentration in Astrochemistry, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College to eliminate the concentration in Astrochemistry. The last student in this concentration completed their program in 2011, and the required core courses have not been taught since 2015. The faculty who were leading the program have left the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign or retired, and the department does not plan to hire faculty in this area. Students interested in the field can pursue other program offerings from the Department of Astronomy and/or the Department of Chemistry.

Establish the Joint Corporate Master of Business Administration/Master of Science in Business Analytics, College of Business Administration and Graduate College, Chicago

The Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Business Administration and the Graduate College, has approved the establishment of the joint Corporate Master of Business Administration/Master of Science in Business Analytics.

The Corporate Master of Business Administration (CMBA) was established in 1994 to meet the needs of international professionals who wish to further their careers by earning their MBA in the United States. The joint degree program is designed for students interested in pursuing managerial careers in business analytics, or in exploiting data science in the business functions.

Earned separately, the degrees require a total of 86 credit hours - 54 for the CMBA and 32 for the MS in Business Analytics. The requirements for completion of the joint degree program are identical to the requirements of the two separate degrees. However, 16 credit hours of shared coursework applies to both degrees. Specifically, the shared coursework will be applied toward the elective requirements for each separate degree. Joint degree students will earn a total of 70 credit hours, and both degrees will be awarded at the end of the program.

Establish the Joint Corporate Master of Business Administration/Master of Science in Supply Chain and Operations Management, College of Business Administration and Graduate College, Chicago

The Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Business Administration and the Graduate College, has approved the establishment of the joint Corporate Master of Business Administration/Master of Science in Supply Chain and Operations Management.

The Corporate Master of Business Administration (CMBA) was established in 1994 to meet the needs of international professionals who wish to further their careers by earning their MBA in the United States. The joint degree program is designed for students seeking a business management career path, while being equipped with expertise in supply chain and operations.

Earned separately, the degrees require a total of 86 credit hours - 54 for the CMBA and 32 for the MS in Supply Chain and Operations Management. The requirements for completion of the joint degree program are identical to the requirements of the two separate degrees. However, 16 credit hours of shared coursework applies to both degrees. Specifically, the shared coursework will be applied toward the elective requirements for each separate degree. Joint degree students will earn a total of 70 credit hours, and both degrees will be awarded at the end of the program.

Establish the Rural Nursing Campus Certificate, College of Nursing and Graduate College, Chicago

The Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Nursing and the Graduate College, has approved the establishment of the Rural Nursing Campus Certificate.

The certificate is designed for bachelor’s-prepared registered nurses and covers content pertaining to the field of rural health. Through online learner-directed coursework and selected fieldwork experiences, the certificate will help to educate a new generation of skilled healthcare professionals focused on improving, preserving, and promoting better health to patients and populations in rural settings. The three semesters of coursework (9 credit hours in total) focus on the clinical aspects of rural healthcare population and patient/family level competence within an interprofessional care team in the prevention, identification, assessment, and treatment of diseases and conditions commonly experienced by rural populations. Students will gain an understanding of concepts/issues related to rural primary care, prepare to address rural problems in general practice, and apply rural health strategies in community-based health initiatives. The certificate program will replace the concentration in Rural Nursing Services that is only available to students within the Doctor of Nursing Practice.

Revise the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Design, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

The Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Engineering, has approved the revision of the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Design.

The BS in Computer Science and Design resides in the Department of Computer Science, although the degree is a collaborative effort with the School of Design as an interdisciplinary major. Following changes being made to the undergraduate programs in computer science, the credit hours of two required and two selective courses are being increased by 1 credit hour to better account for the time spent by students in lectures and labs. To offset these changes in credit hours, one required course in machine organization will become a selective option. Even with the removal of this required course, students will still complete 11 computer science courses within the degree and receive substantial engagement with computer science content. The result of these changes reduces the total hours required to earn the BS in Computer Science and Design from 122 credit hours to 120-122 credit hours, based on students’ course selections.

Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Education and the Concentration in Elementary Education, College of Education, Chicago

The Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Education, has approved the revision of the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Education and the concentration in Elementary Education.

The degree and its required concentration lead to an Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL) in Elementary Education Grades 1-6. This revision incorporates essential child development content coursework in response to current educational contexts, integrates the required coursework for a subsequent endorsement in Early Childhood Birth-Grade 2, and creates more pathways for students to earn subsequent teaching endorsements. The result of these changes reduces the total hours required to earn the BA in Urban Education and concentration in Elementary Education from 121-124 credit hours to a minimum of 120 credit hours, while preserving the content of the current program. Students who wish to pursue optional subsequent endorsements (e.g., Middle Grades 5-8) may require additional credit hours and time to degree.

Eliminate the Cellular, Molecular, and Developmental Biology; Biomaterials Science; Microbiology/Immunology; and Individualized Concentrations in the Doctor of Philosophy in Oral Sciences, College of Dentistry and Graduate College, Chicago

The Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Dentistry and the Graduate College, has approved the elimination of the four concentrations within the Doctor of Philosophy in Oral Sciences.

As part of a proposal to update the core curriculum of the PhD in Oral Sciences, the college determined that it would remove the requirement that students complete a formal concentration. As such, the Cellular, Molecular, and Developmental Biology; Biomaterials Science; Microbiology/Immunology; and Individualized concentrations will be eliminated. The concentrations, comprised of 12-16 hours of focused coursework, reduce the flexibility for students to take electives specific to their research interests and/or conduct additional research. The concentration requirement also presents unnecessary scheduling issues for PhD students (e.g., one concentration requires four courses, all of which are only offered in the spring term). As a result, many students are extending their time to degree completion and earning total credit hours in excess of the required 96.

Establish the Graduate Certificate in Accounting Data Analytics, College of Business and Management, Springfield

The Springfield Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Business and Management, has approved the establishment of the graduate certificate in Accounting Data Analytics.

The graduate certificate in Accounting Data Analytics will provide students the opportunity to specialize in skills and knowledge of accounting data analytics tools and techniques used in financial and managerial accounting, tax, and forensic accounting. The certificate combines knowledge of accounting/auditing and management information systems knowledge to equip students with important skills needed for career success.

The proposed 12-hour graduate certificate, which will be offered in an eight-week online format, will teach students how to integrate accounting data informatics into practice and how to evaluate organizational risk and control, cybersecurity, and privacy issues. Students will learn how to apply current technologies, study accounting data ethics, and learn about current issues in both accounting and auditing data analytics.

The proposed certificate will provide students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities that are highly desirable to organizations that are grappling with challenges in accounting data analytics. Both academic and professional accounting organizations are forecasting a radical change in the profession that will lead to a high demand for accounting information systems and accounting data analytics. For these reasons, the certificate program is expected to be of interest to current students, as well as practicing professionals seeking to refine their job skills as these fields become more analytical in nature.

No additional funding or resources are required to initiate or sustain the certificate, as the curriculum consists of courses currently taught by existing faculty.

Revise the Freshman Transfer Hour Requirement, Office of Enrollment Management, Springfield

The Springfield Senate has approved a proposal from the Office of Enrollment Management to revise the freshman transfer hour requirement.

The minimum number of semester hours for an incoming transfer student at the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) is currently 30 hours. A student seeking to transfer to UIS with less than 30 credit hours is considered a first-time freshman applicant and must submit a high school transcript. A majority of UIS public peer institutions currently recognize 24 hours as the minimum number of credit hours for transfer status. The current higher UIS minimum of 30 hours acts as a barrier to potential transfer students, and the associated transcript requirement creates an additional workflow burden for the UIS admissions office.

Reducing the minimum transfer hours at UIS from 30 to 24 will allow more applicants to qualify as non-first year transfer students and will bring UIS into alignment with the transfer requirements at peer institutions. Lowering the required number of transfer hours will also reduce the number of potential students required to provide a high school transcript. Because applicants who have been out of high school for several years can be discouraged by the requirement to obtain a high school transcript, lowering the minimum number of attempted hours for undergraduate transfer admission is expected to improve access for potential students, encourage more freshman transfers, and reduce the transcript processing workload for the admissions office.

The requested change in freshman transfer hours applies only to admissions requirements and does not affect university or financial aid requirements. No additional funding is required or requested to implement the proposed change.