

Approved by the Board of Trustees
May 20, 2021

Board Meeting
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ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
IN NEUROSCIENCE, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, URBANA

- Action:** Establish the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Neuroscience, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Funding:** The School of Molecular and Cellular Biology does not anticipate hiring new faculty to teach in this program, as there are already many neuroscientists on the faculty. The school plans to hire one full-time academic advisor and one instructor/lecturer to support the program. These hires will be funded by existing revenue streams within the school.

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Neuroscience (BSLAS in Neuroscience).

The proposed BSLAS in Neuroscience is designed for students seeking an in-depth preparation at the undergraduate level in the area of neuroscience to prepare them for graduate school in neuroscience or neuropsychology, or medical school with a focus in neurology or psychiatry, or for a career in the pharmaceutical sector or in a government agency. The program will benefit from existing faculty strength in this diverse disciplinary area with a curriculum that combines the study of molecular and cellular biology with neuroscience, neurophysiology, neurochemistry, and

neuropathology. Graduates will gain novel molecular but integrated perspectives of the study of the brain and its component physical and biological systems.

The field of neuroscience is a young, exciting, and highly interdisciplinary area that is growing at an exponential rate. Because neuroscience is at the crux of understanding the biology of how the brain works, it will be the key to researching the causes and developing biomedical solutions to ongoing mental health crisis.

The School of Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB) already has many neuroscientists among the faculty in its departments. Faculty teaching loads are not expected to change as a result of the proposed program because the MCB courses required have capacity to seat additional students or are delivered in sections and can scale. The School of MCB plans to hire an additional full-time academic advisor and a full-time instructor/lecturer to support the program. Existing revenue streams in the school will be used to fund these hires. The School of MCB will support, through the use of differential tuition, this proposed program by using already existing infrastructure. No new facilities, significant improvements to existing facilities, or impact on the University Library's resources are expected.

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 recommends approval. The action is subject to further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education but IBHE approval is not required.