Reported to the Board of Trustees

May 22, 2025

Board Meeting

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# PRESIDENT’S REPORT ON ACTIONS OF THE SENATE

## Establish the Joint Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies and Master of Science in Child Health, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College to establish the joint Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies (BS in HDFS) and Master of Science in Child Health (MS in Child Health). A companion action item seeks establishment of the MS in Child Health, which is designed to meet the requirements of Child Life Specialist certification exam eligibility, including a 600-hour clinical internship under the direct supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist. Approximately one-third of currently enrolled students in the BS in HDFS indicate they wish to pursue health-related careers, including child life. Establishing the joint BS in HDFS and MS in Child Health program creates an efficient pathway toward this goal, enabling students to count three courses towards both the BS and the MS degrees, thereby reducing time and expense for degree completion.

## Establish the Concentration in Leadership and Organizational Management, Gies College of Business and the Graduate College, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the Gies College of Business and the Graduate College to establish the concentration in Leadership and Organizational Management. This concentration will equip students with the essential skills and knowledge necessary to navigate and excel in today’s complex business environments. The Leadership and Organizational Management concentration is strategically designed to prepare graduates for leadership roles by integrating critical areas of management that are vital for organizational success. The proposed concentration will be available for students pursuing the Master of Accounting Science in Accountancy and for students pursuing the Master of Science in Management. The Leadership and Organizational Management concentration will compliment either of these degree programs to cultivate graduates who are well-rounded leaders capable of addressing contemporary challenges in diverse organizational contexts.

## Establish the Concentration in Marketing, Gies College of Business and the Graduate College, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the Gies College of Business and the Graduate College to establish the concentration in Marketing. This proposed concentration will be available to students enrolled in the Master of Accounting Science in Accountancy and those enrolled in the Master of Science in Management. It is designed to provide students with the strategic, analytical, and tactical skills needed to thrive in today’s dynamic, consumer-driven business environment. Knowledge of how to address market needs and industry trends, enhance strategic and tactical decision-making skills, and foster a holistic approach to business management are essential to meet the growing demand for management professionals who possess not only general business acumen but also specialized expertise in marketing. The concentration in Marketing will provide graduates with a distinct advantage in pursuing a wide range of career paths, including marketing management, digital marketing, product management, brand strategy, market research, and customer analytics. Furthermore, organizations across various sectors are actively seeking candidates with both managerial expertise and a deep understanding of marketing dynamics. By equipping students with these skills, the concentration in Marketing positions graduates for leadership roles in a broad spectrum of industries.

## Establish the Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship, Gies College of Business and the Graduate College, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the Gies College of Business and the Graduate College to establish the Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship (HIDE). The proposed certificate will equip learners with the knowledge to employ business and entrepreneurship principles to effectively launch and sustain healthcare innovations that can be applied to solve healthcare problems across various contexts. As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, the program ensures learners stay ahead of the curve by deepening their understanding of the latest trends, technologies, and practices in healthcare innovation and entrepreneurship.

Designed for learners who do not have the time or desire to pursue a full degree but rather have interest in building skills in the content area, the HIDE certificate will serve individuals with some knowledge of the medical and healthcare fields but who lack necessary skills to capitalize on their innovative vision. This includes medical students, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, laboratory workers, and others working in healthcare. It also includes entrepreneurs, business professionals, managers, and leaders working in healthcare or healthcare-adjacent fields who wish to solve problems in the healthcare industry.

## Establish the Graduate Certificate in Sustainability Education and Climate Justice, College of Education and the Graduate College, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Education and the Graduate College to establish the Graduate Certificate in Sustainability Education and Climate Justice. The need for sustainability education at all educational levels and across the lifespan is evident in global policy documents such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Climate change impacts all facets of daily life and is a human rights concern, with all experiencing the impacts, especially the most vulnerable among us. Enacting solutions and improving public climate literacy has never been more urgent. The proposed certificate meets the current movement by offering coursework and a certificate that is attractive to prospective students while also supporting the university’s commitments to social justice and climate action. The certificate will serve students and professionals who want to contribute to education-based solutions to global climate change, in formal and nonformal schooling, as well as in non-profit sectors and non-governmental organizations.

## Establish the Concentration in Global Perspectives in the Bachelor of Liberal Studies in Liberal Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish the concentration in Global Perspectives in the Bachelor of Liberal Studies in Liberal Studies (BLS). A companion action item seeks the establishment of the BLS, and the Global Perspectives concentration would be one of three concentrations available for BLS students. These three concentrations represent areas of top interest to adult learners that are designed to meet growing industry demand. The Global Perspectives concentration provides students with a comprehensive understanding of global issues from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Students will be able to critically analyze complex global issues from multiple perspectives, including historical, environmental, social, cultural, political, and economic dimensions. The curriculum will facilitate students’ effective communication of their understanding of global issues to diverse audiences, using evidence, reasoning, and persuasive language to support their arguments and engage in thoughtful discussions.

## Establish the Concentration in Health and Society in the Bachelor of Liberal Studies in Liberal Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish the concentration in Health and Society in the Bachelor of Liberal Studies in Liberal Studies (BLS). A companion action item seeks the establishment of the BLS, and the Health and Society concentration would be one of three concentrations available for BLS students. These three concentrations represent areas of top interest to adult learners that are designed to meet growing industry demand. The Health and Society concentration provides students with an understanding of how social, cultural, and environmental factors influence health outcomes. By exploring topics such as global health, public health policy, and the intersection of health and technology, students will develop critical thinking skills, effective communication abilities, and an appreciation for the interplay between individuals and their communities. In the Health and Society concentration, students will apply evolutionary biology, anthropology, sociology, and public health concepts to understand the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to health challenges. The curriculum will facilitate students’ effective communication about health issues to diverse audiences, using evidence, reasoning, and persuasive language to advocate for their positions and engage in productive discussions on health-related topics.

## Establish the Concentration in Management Studies in the Bachelor of Liberal Studies in Liberal Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish the concentration in Management Studies in the Bachelor of Liberal Studies in Liberal Studies (BLS). A companion action item seeks the establishment of the BLS, and the Management Studies concentration would be one of three concentrations available for BLS students. These three concentrations represent areas of top interest to adult learners that are designed to meet growing industry demand. The Management Studies concentration provides students with a strong foundation in management fundamentals, leadership, and organizational behavior. Through coursework in areas such as sales, organizational communication, and leadership and management, students develop the critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills necessary for success in today’s competitive workplace. Students will be able to critically analyze organizational problems, identify key issues, and develop effective solutions. They will learn to evaluate alternative approaches, access potential risks and benefits, and make informed decisions in a variety of management contexts. The curriculum will facilitate students’ understanding of core management principles, such as leadership, organizational behavior, strategic planning, and employee management with the ability to apply these concepts to real-world business situations and to analyze the impact of management decisions on organizational performance.

## Establish the Concentration in Collaborative Piano in the Master of Music in Music, College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College to establish the concentration in Collaborative Piano in the Master of Music in Music. The concentration in Collaborative Piano aims to help students develop the skills required for different types of piano collaboration and increase their knowledge of instrumental due repertoire through study in classes, lessons, and coaching. Graduates will be prepared to pursue a doctoral degree in Collaborative Piano and to work in professional fields, including performing as a collaborative pianist with musicians of all kinds, serving as a pianist for large instrumental ensembles, serving as a pianist for choral ensembles, performing as a collaborative pianist for recording projects, and performing as a collaborative pianist for auditions.

## Establish the Concentration in Music Technology in the Bachelor of Arts in Music, College of Fine and Applied Arts, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to establish the concentration in Music Technology in the Bachelor of Arts in Music. This area of study concentrates on audio production, recording, mixing, electro-acoustic composition techniques, interactive sound synthesis, and digital audio fluency. The curriculum path gives students the flexibility to choose supporting coursework in sound design, engineering, computer science, and more. Examples of career paths in Music Technology include music production, recording/live sound engineering, sound design, multimedia and game design, hardware/software design, film and media scoring, music business, and music education.

## Rename and Revise the Concentration in Human and Evolutionary Biology in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to rename and revise the concentration in Human and Evolutionary Biology in the Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Sciences (BALAS) in Anthropology. The proposed new name of the concentration, “Biological Anthropology,” matches the Department of Anthropology’s subdiscipline’s association and flagship journal, is how the subdiscipline’s research is described on the departmental website, and is more inclusive and aligned with what the department’s biological anthropology faculty teach. The revision to the concentration’s curriculum adds additional courses in the area of biological anthropology to the list from which students can select, and a study abroad option has been added to the senior capstone project requirement.

## Revise the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science, College of Applied Health Sciences, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences to revise the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science. In keeping with new guidelines related to American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) certification, this revision reduces the total number of credit hours required from 128 to 120, adding a professional preparation course and increasing the total hours in speech and hearing science while reducing the number of electives. As outlined in the following four companion report items, it also eliminates concentrations within the major. In place of 19 concentration-area hours, students will now take 12 speech and hearing science-related elective hours. The list of speech and hearing science elective courses from which students may choose has also been updated. Currently enrolled students may remain in the concentration in which they are enrolled and complete the existing requirements, or they may switch to the revised major and follow the proposed new requirements.

## Eliminate the Concentration in Neuroscience in the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science, College of Applied Health Sciences, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences to eliminate the concentration in Neuroscience in the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science. Related to the previous report item, this change is part of a revision to the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science that reduces total required hours to 120, adds a professional preparation course, increases hours in speech and hearing science, reduces free elective hours, and eliminates 19 concentration-required hours replacing them with 12 speech and hearing science-related elective hours. This list of major-related elective hours is also updated as part of the revision. Enrollment in the Neuroscience concentration has been low with no students currently enrolled. Revising the program to remove concentrations makes better use of program resources and provides a stronger student experience.

## Eliminate the Concentration in Audiology in the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science, College of Applied Health Sciences, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences to eliminate the concentration in Audiology in the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science. Related to the previous report items, this change is part of a revision to the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science that reduces total required hours to 120, adds a professional preparation course, increases hours in speech and hearing science, reduces free elective hours, and eliminates 19 concentration-required hours replacing them with 12 speech and hearing science-related elective hours. This list of major-related elective hours is also updated as part of the revision. Core coursework that was part of the Audiology concentration will now be required for all Speech and Hearing Science majors. Revising the program to remove concentrations makes better use of program resources and provides a stronger student experience. Currently enrolled students may remain in the Audiology concentration and complete the existing requirements, or they may switch to the revised major and follow the proposed new requirements.

## Eliminate the Concentration in Speech-Language Pathology in the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science, College of Applied Health Sciences, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences to eliminate the concentration in Speech-Language Pathology in the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science. Related to the previous report items, this change is part of a revision to the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science that reduces total required hours to 120, adds a professional preparation course, increases total hours in speech and hearing science, reduces free elective hours, and eliminates 19 concentration-required hours replacing them with 12 speech and hearing science-related elective hours. This list of major-related elective hours is also updated as part of the revision. Core coursework that was part of the Speech-Language Pathology concentration will now be required for all Speech and Hearing Science majors. Revising the program to remove concentrations makes better use of program resources and provides a stronger student experience. Currently enrolled students may remain in the Speech-Language Pathology concentration and complete the existing requirements, or they may switch to the revised major and follow the proposed new requirements.

## Eliminate the Concentration in Cultural-Linguistic Diversity in the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science, College of Applied Health Sciences, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences to eliminate the concentration in Cultural-Linguistic Diversity in the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science. Related to the previous report items, this change is part of a revision to the Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science that reduces total required hours to 120, adds a professional preparation course, increases total hours in speech and hearing science, reduces free elective hours, and eliminates 19 concentration-required hours replacing them with 12 speech and hearing science-related elective hours. This list of major-related elective hours is also updated as part of the revision. Core coursework that was part of the Cultural-Linguistic Diversity concentration will now be required for all Speech and Hearing Science majors. Revising the program to remove concentrations makes better use of program resources and provides a stronger student experience. Currently enrolled students may remain in the Cultural-Linguistic Diversity concentration and complete the existing requirements, or they may switch to the revised major and follow the proposed new requirements.

## Reorganize and Revise the Secondary Concentrations in Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Safety in the Master of Science in Public Health, Concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, School of Public Health and the Graduate College, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the School of Public Health and the Graduate College, has approved the reorganizing and revision of the secondary concentrations in industrial hygiene and occupational safety within the Master of Science in Public Health, concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences.

The School of Public Health is converting the concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences in the Master of Science in Public Health into the Master of Science in Environmental Health. In turn, the existing secondary concentrations in industrial hygiene and occupational safety will now become the concentration in Industrial Hygiene and the concentration in Occupational Safety within the newly designated degree.

The new environmental health degree emerges from existing curriculum, and the new concentrations will largely follow the current program requirements, although some modifications are being made consistent with accreditation expectations. Moreover, the concentrations will require a project rather than a thesis, whereas non-concentration students will continue to submit a thesis. The total number of credit hours required for each program (53 for Industrial Hygiene; 52 for Occupational Safety) will remain unchanged, and there are only clarifying changes being made to admission requirements.

## Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Earth and Environmental Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, has approved the revision of the Doctor of Philosophy in Earth and Environmental Sciences.

The PhD in Earth and Environmental Sciences is being revised in response to a recent program review. The revision reduces the total credit hours required for the PhD from 104 to 96, and the required content coursework is being reduced from 52 to 32 credit hours.

The proposal addresses revisions in relation to: (1) course and credit hour requirements; (2) the support structure as students progress through the PhD program; and (3) the formal assessments being used. Specifically, PhD students will now take a course in their first year in relation to teaching and presentation of earth and environmental sciences. Additionally, students will still enroll in a departmental seminar each term, but the seminar will no longer carry credit. The department is not substantively changing milestone requirements in the PhD program (e.g., annual progress meetings, qualifying exams, preliminary exams), but the department has provided clearer guidance and narrower parameters for these requirements to ensure students have more equitable experiences and a better understanding of how to succeed.

## Revise the Master of Public Health, Concentration in Health Policy and Administration, School of Public Health, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the School of Public Health, has approved the revision of the Master of Public Health, concentration in Health Policy and Administration.

The School of Public Health offers the Master of Public Health (MPH) with multiple concentrations. Specifically, the Division of Health Policy and Administration (HPA) within the school offers the concentration in Health Policy and Administration, with a Comprehensive Program track (49 credit hours) and a Professional Enhancement Program track (43 credit hours) for students with a terminal professional degree or 3 or more years of experience in the field.

As a result of changes to the broader School of Public Health core curriculum, the content in four HPA-specific courses will now be integrated into the school-wide core, beginning in 2025-2026, leading to the following curricular changes within the concentration. First, the distinction between tracks will be eliminated, and the total credit hours for the concentration in Health Policy Administration will now be 43 credit hours for all students. Second, all students will now have 9 credit hours in electives (this had differed by track). Third, the divisional core (i.e., the concentration-specific requirements) will be reduced from 22 credit hours to 12, reflecting the four courses that are no longer required.

## Revise the Master of Public Health, Concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, School of Public Health, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the School of Public Health, has approved the revision of the Master of Public Health, concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences.

The School of Public Health offers the Master of Public Health (MPH) with multiple concentrations. Specifically, the Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences (EOHS) within the school offers the concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, with a Comprehensive Program track (43 credit hours) and a Professional Enhancement Program track (42 credit hours) for students with a terminal professional degree or 3 or more years of experience in the field.

As a result of changes to the broader School of Public Health core curriculum, and considerations in relation to the flexibility of course offerings, program content, and recruitment, the following changes are being made to the divisional core (i.e., the concentration-specific requirements): three required courses will become elective options; two required courses will be added; and the credit hours for another course will be reduced. The proposal also removes a computing requirement. In turn, the number of elective credit hours will increase to 6 credit hours (from a current 0-3). The Professional Enhancement Program track will also be eliminated (as it has no active students).

## Revise the Joint Programs Policy, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the Committee of Associate and Assistant Deans, has approved the revision of the Joint Programs Policy.

This revision updates the university’s Joint Program Policy, established in 2006 and later revised in 2011. Under the current policy, students in joint programs involving an undergraduate degree and a master’s degree are able to apply a maximum of 9 credit hours in shared coursework to both degrees (reflecting approximately 25 percent of a 32-credit-hour master’s degree). This means that even large master’s degrees (e.g., up to 60 credit hours) face the same 9-credit-hour limit. The policy also addresses shared coursework when two graduate degrees are involved (i.e., such programs should have “no more than 25 percent of the total hours for both degrees as shared coursework”). Additionally, the policy addresses when students should matriculate into a joint program; when degrees should be awarded; and the establishment of joint degree articulation agreements.

The revision proposal (1) lifts the 9-credit-hour maximum in shared coursework for joint programs involving an undergraduate degree and a master’s degree, instead allowing up to 25 percent of the master’s degree to be the limit for shared coursework; (2) allows joint programs to round up the 25 percent calculation of credit hours to the nearest whole number; (3) clarifies expectations for the admissions/matriculation timeframe for joint programs involving an undergraduate degree and a master’s degree; and (4) removes the default expectation that joint programs will award both degrees during the same term (i.e., upon completion of the second degree), allowing students to receive one credential while still completing the second.

## Eliminate the Cancer Epidemiology Concentration in the School of Public Health, School of Public Health and the Graduate College, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the School of Public Health and the Graduate College, has approved the elimination of the Cancer Epidemiology Concentration. Currently, the concentration is an option for School of Public Health graduate students; the concentration is specifically listed within the catalog entries for the MS in Epidemiology and the PhD in Epidemiology.

This change comes in response to a determination made by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the School of Public Health’s accrediting body, during a March 2023 reaccreditation process. CEPH requires that all affiliated concentrations have adequate faculty resources per concentration (i.e., at least three primary instructional faculty) and unique concentration competencies for each degree level, and the concentration did not meet that standard.

This concentration currently has no enrolled students, so there is no student impact in removing the concentration as an option. The cancer epidemiology coursework will remain within the curriculum and may count as elective courses.

## Establish the Minor in Public Leadership,

## College of Public Affairs and Education, Springfield

The University of Illinois Springfield Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Public Affairs and Education to establish the minor in Public Leadership. The minor in Public Leadership will be a tangible expression of UIS’ distinctive identity as the public university in the state capital that develops the next generation of public leadership talent. It will offer a sequence of undergraduate courses and experiential learning and engagement opportunities in which students will learn the qualities of effective leaders, practical leadership skills, and information about professional and volunteer opportunities for public service leadership. They will also gain an understanding of how government works as well as insight into the dynamics of leadership in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors. The 15-credit hour minor will be open to students in all majors and offered via face-to-face, online, and hybrid delivery modes.

## Eliminate the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Health,

##  College of Health, Science, and Technology, Springfield

The University of Illinois Springfield Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Health, Science, and Technology to eliminate the graduate certificate in Environmental Health. The 16-hour certificate, which is housed within the Master of Public Health in the School of Integrated Sciences, Sustainability, and Public Health, was designed to prepare students to take the Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner exam. Since then, less expensive and more convenient resources have become available to assist students in preparing for the exam and student interest has shifted to the full Master of Public Health in Environmental Health with an approved STEM curriculum, which launched in 2019. There are no active students in the certificate program.

## Eliminate the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Risk Assessment, College of Health, Science, and Technology, Springfield

The University of Illinois Springfield Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Health, Science and Technology to eliminate the graduate certificate in Environmental Risk Assessment. The 16-hour certificate, which is housed within the Master of Public Health in the School of Integrated Sciences, Sustainability, and Public Health, was popular among employees of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois Department of Public Health seeking advanced credentials. Interest in the certificate declined significantly, however, when the State of Illinois discontinued tuition reimbursements for the certificate for state employees. There are no active students in the certificate program.