Approved by the Board of Trustees

November 14, 2024

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Board Meeting

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# ELIMINATE THE MASTER OF LAWS IN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, UIC SCHOOL OF LAW, CHICAGO

**Action:** Eliminate the Master of Laws in Employee Benefits, UIC School of Law

**Funding:** No funding 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 the UIC School of Law, recommends the elimination of the Master of Laws in Employee Benefits.

The Master of Laws (LLM) programs at the UIC School of Law are specialized degrees intended for practicing lawyers who have previously completed a Juris Doctor (JD) degree. Four LLM programs have already been eliminated, and the remaining three LLM programs, including the Master of Laws in Employee Benefits, are now being eliminated.

In 2019, the LLM programs were transferred over from the law school’s predecessor institution, The John Marshall Law School, when the law school was acquired by the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). However, the programs are currently dormant, with admission having been suspended in 2020 due to the low number of qualified applicants. There are no students currently enrolled in any of the LLM programs. This decision also follows from a review by the UIC Senate Committee on Educational Policy Program Review Council, which recommended that the law school consider suspending or canceling the degree programs.

There are no significant impacts associated with the elimination of the LLM programs, as these have already been inactive for several years. The law school will instead focus its administrative resources on the Juris Doctor, its primary degree program, while formally eliminating any courses associated solely with the LLM programs. However, some of the specialized courses originally developed for the LLM programs will continue to be offered for JD students, and these courses will remain in the law school’s curriculum.

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. 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.