Reported to the Board of Trustees

November 16, 2023

Board Meeting

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# PRESIDENT’S REPORT ON ACTIONS OF THE SENATES

## Establish the Joint Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Design and Master of Landscape Architecture in Landscape Architecture, College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College to establish the joint Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Design and Master of Landscape Architecture in Landscape Architecture. The joint degree program will allow students to graduate and receive a Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Design (BSSD) and an optional undergraduate minor in Landscape Architecture after four years (120 hours) and enter graduate studies to pursue an accelerated Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) in only two additional years. The MLA is traditionally a three-year program. Without this joint program, it would thus take students seven years to complete the BSSD and MLA. The MLA program is accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB). A student who has obtained the MLA degree qualifies for professional landscape architecture licensure in U.S. jurisdictions, following completion of two years of practice and passing of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination. The joint BSSD and MLA equips students with a multidisciplinary skill set in design thinking, technical competence, and the abilities to generate design proposals and to communicate using digital tools.

## Establish the Concentration in Instructional Design, Technology, and Organization in the Master of Education in Education Policy, Organization and Leadership, College of Education and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Education and the Graduate College to establish the concentration in Instructional Design, Technology, and Organization in the Master of Education in Education Policy, Organization and Leadership. The Industrial Design, Technology, and Organization (IDTO) concentration covers foundational knowledge and competencies in instructional system design and learning technology integration to create innovative learning and development solutions in workplace settings. The concentration aims to develop capable professionals who can lead the efforts to meet the many increasing needs of workplaces and workplace development to expand existing learning and development solutions and create innovative new ones in response to changing organizational needs. There is a growing and sustainable need to efficiently upskill the training and learning development workforce around the world during and after the global COVID-19 pandemic. Workplaces and organizations are increasing their instructional system design capacity so they can respond more effectively to the next systemic interruption. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the employment outlook for instructional designers is projected to experience an 11 percent increase in positions between 2016 and 2026. The IDTO concentration will support both currently growing, high-demand job opportunities as well as educational requirements necessary to obtain employment.

## Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Information Sciences, School of Information Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the School of Information Sciences and the Graduate College to revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Information Sciences. When benchmarking the other existing PhD programs at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the PhD in Information Sciences credit hour requirements were not in alignment. Of the 90 programs, only six other programs required above the 64-hour minimum outlined by the Graduate College. Total hours for students entering with an approved BS/BA degree is reduced from 112 to 96. Total hours for students entering with an approved MS/MA degree is reduced from 80 to 64. This revision reduces the number of elective hours for the PhD in Information Sciences, bringing the program into alignment with other doctoral programs at the university.

## Eliminate the Concentration in Crafts in the Master of Fine Arts in Art and Design, College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College to eliminate the concentration in Crafts in the Master of Fine Arts in Art and Design. This concentration has seen declining enrollments, and no new students have been accepted since fall 2017. There is currently no enrollment. The sole faculty appointment in the discipline retired in 2020, and because there is no enrollment, there is no plan to rehire.

## Eliminate the Concentration in Metals in the Master of Fine Arts in Art and Design, College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Graduate College to eliminate the concentration in Metals in the Master of Fine Arts in Art and Design. This concentration has seen declining enrollments, and no new students have been accepted since fall 2017. There is currently no enrollment. The sole faculty appointment in the discipline retired in 2020, and because there is no enrollment, there is no plan to rehire.

## Eliminate the Concentration in French Commercial Studies in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in French, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to eliminate the concentration in French Commercial Studies in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in French. Only four students have declared French Commercial Studies as a concentration since 2016, and all those students have subsequently graduated. With the last student graduating two years ago and no new enrollment, faculty voted to eliminate the concentration. Courses created specifically for the French Commercial Studies concentration have become electives and can be taken as part of the French studies major and minor.

## Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies,

## College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Springfield

The Springfield Campus Senate approved a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences to revise the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies (LIS).

The goal of these revisions is to simplify the degree requirements to accommodate those with some college and no degree who want a high-quality bachelor’s degree and reverse a downward trend in the number of LIS majors at UIS. The rejuvenated Liberal Studies degree includes a set of measurable objectives, clarified policies, and simplified requirements for two tracks: 1) Liberal Studies and 2) Interdisciplinary Studies. The modified curriculum maintains a 40-credit hour program but removes the requirement to take courses in seven different categories, besides the core and required interdisciplinary courses. The number of credit hours aligns UIS with the major’s credit-hour requirements and the expectations of similar degree programs in Illinois and the nation.

Both tracks require a new core course, Introduction to Liberal Studies, which introduces academic disciplines systematically and reviews theoretical approaches and research methodologies, educational philosophies, and strategies for success in the major. As an entry point for the major, this course will provide important assessment data. Both tracks require the existing capstone course, which has been modified to reflect the focus on an interdisciplinary project and its use in program assessment.

The revised degree program will be offered in both on-ground and online formats. The proposed revisions will only apply to new students in the major. Students currently enrolled in the program will be allowed to complete their degree by fulfilling the current requirements for the major.