Reported to the Board of Trustees

November 18, 2021

Board Meeting

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## PRESIDENT’S REPORT ON ACTIONS OF THE SENATE

Establish the Concentration in Secondary Education in the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science + Education, College of Education, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Education to establish the concentration in Secondary Education in the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science + Education (B.S. in CS + Ed). The Secondary Education concentration in the B.S. in CS+Ed will prepare students to teach foundational computation skills at the K through 12 level. There is an increasing recognition of the importance of computational thinking and computer science education in K through 12. Skills learned while studying computation and computer science, such as general problem-solving, are useful beyond the context of computer science education. In addition, computing occupations are one of the most important sources of new wages in the United States. Training teachers who are well qualified to teach computer science in K through 12 will contribute to reducing inequalities by increasing access to computer science courses and computer science-related jobs.

The proposed concentration is motivated by the importance of computational thinking and computer science both economically and as a general skill for students to learn. Computing occupations are the number one source of new wages in the United States and 58 percent of new STEM jobs are in computing. Beyond computing jobs, skills learned in computer science courses are invaluable across the modern workforce. Teaching students computational thinking skills provides a new way to approach problem solving. Students are taught how to break down problems into sub-problems and then formulate creative solutions. These skills are not just useful for those who would go on to jobs in STEM fields, but give students the opportunity to analyze problems and their solutions across many fields in a new way.

Establish the Undergraduate Minor in Game Studies and Design, School of Information Science, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the School of Information Science to establish the undergraduate minor in Game Studies and Design.

The proposed minor is intended to foster critical skills in academic game studies, and technical skills in game design. The minor will serve undergraduates who are interested in the study and design of games, gaming, game design and the digital, extended and virtual reality (XR/VR) and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies involved with the crafting of interactive systems and interfaces relevant to the game, film, education, and media industries, as well as a range of other emerging professions.

Through this minor, students will learn to think critically about the history, cultural meaning, social impact, ethics, and increasingly significant role of games, gaming, and interactive media in a diverse society; they will develop the logical, algorithmic, narrative, and design capacities needed to make games, interactive narratives, and simulations; and they will become prepared for graduate work, if desired, on a path to pursuing a career in the game industry or in academic game studies research.

Establish the Undergraduate Minor in Hospitality Management, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences to establish the undergraduate minor in Hospitality Management. The proposed minor in Hospitality Management is designed to broaden the student’s knowledge of skills used in the hospitality industry, with a focus on the unique application in the field. A minor in Hospitality Management would benefit those students who intend to pursue careers in the hospitality industry like restaurants, hotels, and other related fields.

Establish the Campus Graduate Certificate in Instructional System Design Management 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 Campus Graduate Certificate in Instructional System Design Management and Leadership (ISDML CGC). The ISDML CGC covers foundational knowledge and competencies in instructional system design and learning technology integration for practical application purposes in workplace settings. In addition, the coursework will help learners develop skills in various topical areas (e.g., project management, program evaluation, consulting with organizations).

The ISDML CGC is meeting the increasing need of workplaces and workforce development to expand learning and development modalities from face-to-face to virtual settings, in response to changing organizational needs as well as major systemic changes, such as the pandemic.

Establish the Joint Juris Doctor in Law and Master of Science in Library and Information Science, College of Law, School of Information Sciences, and the Graduate College, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Law, School of Information Sciences, and the Graduate College to establish the joint Juris Doctor in Law and Master of Science in Library and Information Science (JD and MS in LIS). Legal research is an integral component of law practice and consequently legal education. Law possesses a highly specialized and interconnected body of literature that requires extensive training to utilize. It is the responsibility of law librarians to ensure that legal information is readily accessible, fully current, appropriately organized and used properly. In the academic setting, the law librarian has the further responsibility of teaching fundamental and advanced legal research skills.

Today, nearly all administrative and public service positions in academic law librarianship require both the master’s degree in library science and the law degree. As such, the presumption is that law library directors should receive both degrees. Reference positions routinely require both degrees as well.

There is also a growing synergy in intellectual property development between those trained in law and in information sciences. Understanding the architecture, organization and use of information systems can be of great value to those interested in the practice of intellectual property law and the development of information policy.

In addition to conventional careers in legal librarianship, this dual degree program will also prepare students for the emerging and growing number of socio-technical careers in government and legal information management, information policy, and privacy. In this sense, the dual degree pathway accommodates the growing number of professionals in information and technology law and policy roles, in industry, government, non-profits, and clinical law who obtain both degrees over their careers.

Establish the Graduate Minor in Translation and Interpreting Studies, 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 to establish the graduate minor in Translation and Interpreting Studies (TIS). The proposed minor will enhance the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s commitment to workforce development, making doctoral candidates who seek academic positions more attractive to the rapidly growing number of academic institutions that are adding Translation and Interpreting Studies to their undergraduate and graduate curricula. The graduate minor in TIS will also respond to the urgent need for professionals with training and skill in the areas of intercultural and cross-linguistic competence.

Because of the wide-ranging nature of the discipline of TIS, the proposed minor will complement a wide variety of graduate majors. For example, students in any of the disciplines involving community outreach, such as law, social work, medicine, and education, will deeply enhance their academic and professional training by developing skills in oral interpreting. Those whose graduate work involves computer science or coding skills will find a practical application of those skills through study of Computer-Assisted Translation tools or through the study of localization of software, while students in professional fields will have the chance to learn and develop the techniques used by translators of a range of non-literary texts. Scholars of literature with an understanding of the theories and practices of literary translation will supplement their academic degrees with a practical skill, while also honing their analytical skills by developing a practice of attention to the subtleties of language and style as well as to issues of cross-cultural or trans-historical reception. Students may also opt to deepen their skill and understanding of particular challenges and issues related to the translation of specific languages by completing courses focusing on just one language (e.g. German-English translation, Spanish-English translation, Arabic-English translation).

Eliminate the Double Major Requirement for the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, College of Education and Human Services, Springfield

The Springfield Senate with the recommendation of the College of Education and Human Services has approved a request to eliminate the double major requirement for the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education.

The current structure of the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education combines an Education major with the required concurrent completion of another major in a content area, such as English or Mathematics. For this reason, the completion of the Elementary Education major is currently contingent upon successful completion of the requirements of the content major, as well as the requirements of the Education major.

The double major requirement in the Elementary Education program, which is somewhat unique to the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) compared to other Illinois elementary education programs, is a deterrent to current and prospective students who want to become elementary teachers, as it adds both additional coursework and an additional financial burden. Prospective students often choose not to pursue an Elementary Education degree at UIS because of the double major requirement and opt instead to obtain their teaching degree at a different Illinois institution.

Moving the elementary education degree program from a double major to a standalone major is expected to increase enrollment in the program and will expedite degree completion for students, allowing students to finish their degree at UIS in fewer semesters with less financial burden. In addition, the elimination of the double major requirement will streamline the pathway to teaching licensure, which will also assist in addressing the teacher shortage crisis in Illinois.

Other than removing the double major requirement, there will be no other changes to the curriculum or graduation requirements for the Elementary Education degree. An Elementary Education student who is interested in pursuing a double major in order to gain content knowledge in a specific field will still have the option to do so at UIS, but it will no longer be a requirement for the Elementary Education degree.