



Approval of Administrative Reorganization of Academic Units and the Use of the Reasonable and Moderate Extension Process of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, SIUC – Excerpt from December 13, 2018 Meeting of the SIU Board of Trustees

Source:

siusystem.edu/board-of-trustees/meetings/2018/1218agenda-website.pdf

Downloaded: 8/5/19

Southern Illinois University
Board of Trustees
December 13, 2018

APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION OF ACADEMIC UNITS AND
THE USE OF THE REASONABLE AND MODERATE EXTENSION PROCESS
OF THE ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SIUC

Summary

This matter seeks to approve the administrative reorganization of academic units that fall under the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs as well as the process for formalizing the reorganization through the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Rationale for Adoption

The SIU Carbondale campus has been engaged in a planning process for the reorganization of its academic unit structures since fall 2017. In the summer of 2018, following months of deliberations with faculty, administrators, alumni and others to finalize proposals, the Faculty Senate began its review process of several proposed Reasonable and Moderate Extensions (RMEs) developed in consultation with the faculty. The Graduate Council began its review process in the fall of 2018. The University is pleased that about one-half of the total anticipated RMEs have made their way through the formal campus review process. Many of them are awaiting approval from the Interim President and others are under evaluation for continued discussion with the faculty.

Upon starting this process last year, the University received guidance from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) that the planned restructuring of academic administrative units would fall under the RME process. The administrative reorganization plan has proceeded in a manner consistent with this process.

Further, campus has been advised that the reorganization approval falls under Article II, Section 1.9 of the Statutes of the Board as it would be considered a major alteration of academic programs. As such, this matter seeks approval of the administrative reorganization of the academic units.

The academic programs and structure at SIU Carbondale have remained much the same for many decades, while the higher education marketplace and needs of students as well as the external employment environment have changed significantly. To address this divide, it was proposed that administratively restructured academic programs were not only critical to the recruitment and retention of students but also to the ability for the University to reinvest resources in programs and people.

Among the hallmarks of the proposed academic structure are:

- opportunities for greater interdisciplinary collaboration among students and faculty

- the ability to break down artificial barriers, giving faculty more flexibility to build and revitalize programs
- creative freedom to foster the development of new programs that reflect high demand areas of interest by prospective students and employers
- reinforcement and greater visibility of strong and essential programs that are important to enrollment and research growth

The most significant limitation in the ability of campus to realize such transformational change has been bureaucratic, artificial boundaries created by the way effort and resources are counted. An updated administrative organization of the academic enterprise will no longer limit innovation and collaboration, particularly around efforts to create multidisciplinary programs, team teach, and co-mentor students.

The goal in the reorganization effort is to eliminate the primary obstacles for multidisciplinary interaction, which are part of the current financial and administrative structure. By creating broader, integrated academic schools, the SIUC campus can craft an overall administrative structure that is more nimble, more efficient and more capable of delivering resources to support innovative thinking. The result will lead to greater faculty ownership and responsibility for academic programs.

Following are steps taken to date to revitalize SIU Carbondale's academic programs in concert with the administrative reorganization process. There is much more extensive information provided on the chancellor.siu.edu/vision2025 website.

Academic reorganization: The campus community was engaged in the development of a proposed new academic structure that realigns programs into schools and colleges and creates a new college structure. Components of the proposal are being reviewed through a complex process in compliance with university and state policies and collective bargaining agreements. This process is currently underway.

Core curriculum: The University believes all students should graduate with strong communication skills, a multidisciplinary foundation, cultural competency, leadership skills and emotional intelligence. The Core Curriculum Executive Committee has taken up the charge to revise the core curriculum. The committee is carefully constructing a curriculum that is mapped to the mission, uniquely defines what it is to be a Saluki, and meets the IBHE requirements of a general education core curriculum. To assure quality and continuous improvement, the committee is integrating tools to assess student learning throughout the core curriculum using the learning centered framework of the Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP).

Additionally, the Diversity Council has developed recommendations for incorporating cultural competency for every student into the core curriculum. The recommendations were approved by the University in principle as they addressed diversity curriculum and pedagogy as well as advancing our rich history of and commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University in regular meeting assembled, That:

(1) Pursuant to Article II, Section 1.9 of the Statutes of the Board, the Board approves the University's reorganization as described within this document and other materials provided or made available to the Board over the past year.

(2) The Board approves the use of the IBHE's recommended process of the Request for Reasonable and Moderate Extension in relation to enacting the administrative reorganization of academic units.

(3) The Board hereby affirms 1 Policies of the Board, B(2), as pursuant to Article III, Section 2 of its Statutes of the Board, that authority is delegated to the Interim President of Southern Illinois University to approve changes in titles of programs, units and degrees as well as administrative reorganizations which do not effectively increase the number of units of instruction, research or public service.

(4) The Interim President of Southern Illinois University be and is hereby authorized to take whatever action may be required in the execution of this resolution in accordance with established policies and procedures.