**Illinois State**

**University**

**Board of**

**Trustees**

**Resolution No. 2015.02/08**

**Approval of B.A., B.S. in**

**Fashion Design and Merchandising**

**Resolution**

Whereas, the Board of Trustees, as authorized by the Board of Trustees Governing Document, Section A, Government Statutes, Subsection 5, Reservation of Powers, has reserved to itself the final decision-making authority for the establishment of any new unit of instruction requiring approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the proposal for degree granting authority for the B.A., B.S. in Fashion Design and Merchandising.

Board Action on: Postpone:

Motion by: Amend:

Second by: Disapprove:

Vote: Yeas: Nays: Approve:

ATTEST: Board Action, February 20, 2015

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Secretary/Chairperson

Board of Trustees of Illinois State University

B.A., B.S. in Fashion Design and Merchandising

The proposed B.A., B.S. in Fashion Design and Merchandising program would be administered by the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences within the College of Applied Science and Technology. The program is based on the long-standing Apparel Merchandising and Design sequence in the B.A., B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences program and is intended to replace that sequence. The proposal is one of four concurrently developed by the department to elevate undergraduate sequences to stand-alone majors. The other three are Human Development and Family Science; Interior Design; and Food, Nutrition, and Dietetics.

The proposal resulted in part from the 2012-2013 program review self-study of the Family and Consumer Sciences undergraduate program conducted by department faculty. Through the study, faculty found that most institutions of similar size had stand-alone fashion merchandising programs within a more comprehensive department. The change is intended to result in a more competitive fashion design and merchandising program at Illinois State with respect to student and faculty recruitment and external grant procurement. The name of the program is being changed from Apparel Merchandising and Design to Fashion Design and Merchandising, as the latter is more common among similar programs nationwide.

The curriculum of the proposed program is intended to prepare students for careers in the global apparel and textile industry, including apparel design and production, merchandising, textile product quality control, and historic costume and textile preservation. The program offers two options: 1) Fashion Merchandising and 2) Fashion Design and Product Development. Course content includes computer-aided design (CAD) programs, pattern making and design, visual retailing software, merchandising process simulation, textile quality testing, and sustainability. Students will have opportunities to tour firms within the textiles and apparel industry in the United States and Europe.

Enrollment is projected at 135 full-time students once the program is fully implemented. Impact of the new program on University operations should be minimal, since the program is so closely based on the existing sequence.

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