**Illinois State**

**University**

**Board of**

**Trustees**

**Resolution No. 2016.10/29**

**Approval of   
B.S. in Cybersecurity**

**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.S. in Cybersecurity.

Board Action on: Postpone:

Motion by: Amend:

Second by: Disapprove:

Vote: Yeas: Nays: Approve:

ATTEST: Board Action, October 28, 2016

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Secretary/Chairperson

Board of Trustees of Illinois State University

B.S. in Cybersecurity

Information security is an increasing need in today's interconnected digital world. According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for information security specialists is expected to grow nationally by 18 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average across all occupations.

The proposed B.S. in Cybersecurity program at Illinois State University will help students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for protecting information and information systems. The program is designed to prepare students to assess the security needs of computer and network systems, recommend safeguard solutions, and manage the implementation and maintenance of security devices, systems, and procedures.

The B.S. in Cybersecurity program will be administered by the School of Information Technology in the College of Applied Science and Technology. The proposed program is a logical extension of the existing Information Assurance and Security sequence, established in 2006 within the B.S. in Information Systems program offered by the School.

Students in the B.S. in Cybersecurity program will complete 80 credit hours in the major including 56 credit hours in information technology. Elevation of the sequence to a major will allow deeper coverage of theory and practical experiences in protecting computer systems, data, and networks. The curriculum of the new major includes expanded coverage of auditing and analysis of security incidents and of human elements of security such as writing security policies. Elevation of the sequence to a major will help Illinois State University maintain its certification as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cyber Defense Education from the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security.

In developing the major, the School of Information Technology has greatly benefitted from feedback provided by industry partners via its Business and Industry Advisory Council. The curriculum is based on standards set by the federal government and industry-related organizations. State Farm Insurance is providing support, including financial, to help develop the cybersecurity program because of the company needs for graduates in the field.

Enrollment in the B.S. in Cybersecurity program is projected at 125 students once the program is fully implemented. This is the approximate number of students enrolled in the Information Assurance and Security sequence, which will be disestablished if the cybersecurity major is approved. Current school resources are sufficient to support the program at that level.

Board of Trustees of Illinois State University – B.S. in Cybersecurity Page 2

10/28/2016