**Illinois State**

**University**

**Board of**

**Trustees**

**Resolution No. 2016.02/06**

**Approval of**

**B.A. in European Studies**

**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. in European Studies.

Board Action on: Postpone:

Motion by: Amend:

Second by: Disapprove:

Vote: Yeas: Nays: Approve:

ATTEST: Board Action, February 19, 2016

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Secretary/Chairperson

Board of Trustees

Illinois State University

B.A. in European Studies

The B.A. in European Studies program is designed to prepare students for international careers by providing a cohesive program of study in the arts, history, languages and society of one or more European nations. The program is intended to enhance prospects for employment with international organizations and entities engaged in international business or affairs. The program supplements rather than replaces existing programs at the University and may be completed as either a first or second major. A minor in European Studies is also available.

Development of the B.A. in European Studies program reflects the global influence of Europe as the largest trading bloc in the world, the location of the largest volume of foreign investment by the United States, and the largest international investor in the United States. The program was initially conceived by faculty of the German program and was included by German faculty in its 2013 program review report as a priority initiative. The proposal gained momentum in recent years through campus-wide meetings of interested faculty, a European film festival, and a European Studies symposium, funded in part by a grant from the European Union. The program was then developed by a steering committee of faculty members from the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; the College of Fine Arts; and the Department of History (which will administer the program). The B.A. in European Studies will be the only undergraduate European Studies major at a public university in the state and the only active undergraduate European Studies program at any Illinois university.

Candidates for the B.A. in European Studies complete between 30 and 46 credit hours in the major. Students take nine credit hours of core courses, including a senior seminar, and select at least 18 credit hours of elective courses, including six in history, six in the arts, and six in a concentration chosen by the student. Students are required to achieve proficiency in a European language (other than English) equivalent to five semesters of coursework and to study abroad for at least one semester or summer term. The program is expected to enroll up to 40 students when fully implemented.

Offering the B.A. in European Studies program will not require additional resources. Instead, the program is predicated on the reconfiguration of existing resources to allow students to pursue their academic interests in an interdisciplinary manner.

The proposed B.A. in European Studies program is one of numerous initiatives at the University intended to internationalize the curriculum of the institution. The proposal supports the university goal of doubling the number of students who study abroad by the end of the decade.

Board of Trustees of Illinois State University – Approval of B.A. in European Studies Page 2

02/19/2016