



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Revise the M.S. in Journalism degree to create (a.) a 4+1 sequence that combines a bachelor's and master's degrees in the Department of Journalism, College of Media; and to create (b.) a deep knowledge sequence to attract applicants with advanced degrees in such fields as the sciences, engineering, technology and math.

SPONSOR: Rich Martin, Journalism Department Head, 333-0709, richmart@illinois.edu.

COLLEGE CONTACT: Julian Parrott, Associate Dean for Student Services and Academic Affairs, 244-4329, jparrott@illinois.edu.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The 4+1 sequence would allow qualified University of Illinois journalism undergraduates to complete their B.S. in Journalism and M.S. in Journalism in five years or less. The one-year graduate sequence would also be open to applicants with approved undergraduate degrees in journalism from other institutions. This sequence would be largely self-sustaining; most students would pay tuition and fees. Students with no prior journalism education or background – and who do not qualify for the deep knowledge track – would also be accepted into this sequence, but would be required to take JOUR 501 as an elective. The second sequence, deep knowledge, is designed to attract a limited number of applicants who already possess or are working on advanced degrees in selected fields such as, but not limited to, the sciences, technology, engineering, health and medical fields, and mathematics. Limited fellowships would be available for applicants in the deep knowledge sequence. Either sequence would be open to mid-career journalists wishing to do advanced work as multimedia, investigative, narrative or immersion journalism. We would also raise the program's minimum GPA from 2.875 to 3.0 to bring it in line with other units on campus. We anticipate a maximum annual enrollment for both sequences to be capped at a total of 20 graduate students.

JUSTIFICATION: The journalism industry is undergoing seismic changes. The market for entry-level journalists remains strong, but students are at a competitive disadvantage if they do not possess professional skills beyond a single medium. The challenge is to acquire this breadth of knowledge without sacrificing the depth of knowledge that allows students the opportunities for advancement after their entry-level positions. In response to these changes, the Department of Journalism has recently reorganized and revised its undergraduate curriculum and re-designated the Bachelor of Science in Journalism (BSJ) degree with a major in Broadcast Journalism and a major News Editorial as the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree with a major in Journalism, beginning with the freshman class entering in Fall 2014. The proposed revisions in the M.S. in Journalism degree will align and integrate the M.S. program with the changes in the undergraduate program. The 4+1

sequence will be largely self-sustaining because most students will pay their way in the program. The availability of the 4+1 sequence will be a valuable recruiting tool for the undergraduate program because it will offer students who qualify during their junior year the option of receiving two degrees in a fast, integrated program. The College of Media has the lowest terms-to-undergraduate-degree of any college on campus; the terms-to-degree rate is also low for our existing M.S. degree, which typically requires three semesters for students without previous journalism experience or training. (For comparison, peer journalism graduate programs can range from one year to two years. The University of Missouri offers a two-year M.A. journalism program or a five-year B.J./M.A. Indiana University offers a 12-month master's program. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill offers a two-year program. The University of Nebraska's graduate program takes three semesters.)

Formalizing a 4+1 sequence will enhance the Department's ability to retain its undergraduates as graduate students and help it attract applicants with undergraduate journalism degrees from other universities. The revisions to Journalism's undergraduate degree and curriculum were designed to allow students to improve their skills by broadening their background. The 4+1 sequence will give students' greater breadth across multiple platforms, which should further enhance their marketability. The additional year would also give students more opportunities for professional internships, which are increasingly important for students seeking journalism-related careers. Students without an undergraduate degree in Journalism and who do not qualify for the deep knowledge sequence will be required to take JOUR 501.

The deep knowledge sequence in the M.S. in Journalism degree will be open to a limited number of students with advanced degrees in such fields as, but not limited to, the sciences, mathematics, health and medical fields, technology and engineering who want to acquire the reporting, writing, research and critical thinking skills that are taught in our 400- and 500-level journalism classes. This sequence would align with the university's strategic plan to develop student expertise and public outreach in issues related to energy and the environment, information and technology, and health and wellness. This sequence would also advance the university's land-grant mission of emphasizing the dissemination of information in these areas to society. Deep knowledge objectives have been heralded as an increasingly important means of training scientists to share their deep knowledge with a broader audience. A limited number of fellowships would be available to help recruit outstanding candidates for this sequence.

Both sequences will culminate in a more extensive capstone JOUR515 Master's Project course spanning two semesters, instead of the present one semester project (often a summer semester.) The second master's seminar – JOUR500: Contemporary Issues in Journalism – will similarly increase from two to four credit hours. This course and the capstone project course will include materials previously found in the JOUR510 Readings in Journalism course.

Mid-career professional journalists interested in advanced journalism courses would be encouraged to apply to either sequence.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS: *(Please respond to each of the following questions. Place your response right after each item. See Appendix A for questions*

required of new degree program proposals as well additional notes regarding budgetary and staff implications.)

- a. **Additional staff and dollars needed:** Neither sequence would require additional staffing because the 400- and 500-level courses are already offered and are taught regularly. All have available capacity.
- b. **Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.):** No effects are anticipated on any of these areas as all classes are currently taught. These classes are currently capped at 15 to 20 students per accreditation standards and have sufficient unused capacity within that limit. The total number of students in the master's program in recent years has been in the 12-15 range, from a high of 33 students in 2004. We anticipate a maximum annual enrollment for both sequences to be capped at 20 graduate students. Fellowships would be devoted primarily to deep knowledge students instead of continuing undergraduates.
- c. **Effect on course enrollment in other units and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments:** No effect is anticipated. The program as currently constituted involves students taking very few electives outside of Journalism. This is unlikely to change.
- d. Impact on the University Library (*A letter of acknowledgement from the University Librarian must be included for all new program proposals.*) See attached letter.
- e. Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.: No adverse effects are anticipated for the reasons previously outlined.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: (*Proposals may not be implemented until they go through all necessary levels of approval. The Provost's office will inform the sponsors in writing when they may implement their proposal. Proposed changes may not be publicized as final on any web sites, printed documents, etc. until written confirmation of final approval is issued.*) FALL 2014, for enrolling students for Fall 2015.

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG: (*All proposals must include either a new or revised version of the entry in the Programs of Study Catalog, if applicable. Entries will be published as approved by the Senate. Future changes in the statement for Programs of Study Catalog which reflect changes in the curriculum, must go through the normal review process at the appropriate levels.*)

For the M.S. in Journalism (Choose one of two sequences)

Sequence 1. The Department of Journalism offers a 4+1 program leading to the Master of Science in Journalism for undergraduates enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Journalism program at the University of Illinois. Students can apply for this program in the first semester of their junior year and will be encouraged to select their remaining undergraduate journalism elective courses at the 200- and 300-level from courses listed in the professional option other than the one they elected to follow in completing their undergraduate degree. As graduate students, they will enroll in a minimum of four advanced electives at the 400 and 500 levels, in addition to required graduate courses. Electives may be in areas inside or outside Journalism to allow them to pursue a topical specialization. Those electives would require the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies. Students with approved undergraduate journalism degrees from other institutions also are eligible to apply for this sequence. Those without undergraduate degrees in

Journalism – and who do not qualify for the deep knowledge or sequence 2 track – will be required to take JOUR 501 as an elective. **Total: 32 hours.**

FALL

JOUR 505: Master's Pro-seminar (4 hours)

JOUR 515A: Master's Project: Part 1 (4 hours)

Electives – minimum of two JOUR 4xx courses, or other approved 400- and 500-level courses (8 hours)

SPRING

JOUR 500: Issues in Journalism (4 hours)

JOUR 515B: Master's Project: Part 2 (4 hours)

Electives – minimum of two JOUR 4xx courses, or other approved 400- and 500-level courses (8 hours)

Students can not repeat journalism electives at the 400 level taken as undergraduates. The Director of Journalism Graduate Studies must approve any non-Journalism courses that are chosen.

Sequence 2: (Deep Knowledge) The Department of Journalism offers a 12-month program leading to the Master of Science in Journalism for applicants who possess or are working toward advanced degrees in such fields as, but not limited to, the sciences, engineering, mathematics, health and medical fields, and technology. Mid-career professional journalists interested in advanced journalism courses are also encouraged to apply. **Total: 32 hours.**

FALL

JOUR 501: Intensive Reporting and Writing Across Platforms (4 hours)

JOUR 505: Master's Pro-seminar (4 hours)

Electives – minimum of 4 hours at the JOUR 4xx level

SPRING

JOUR 500: Contemporary Issues in Journalism (4 hours)

JOUR 515A: Master's Project: Part 1 (4 hours)

Electives – minimum of two JOUR 4xx courses (8 hours)

SUMMER

JOUR 515B: Master's Project: Part 2 (4 hours)

CLEARANCES: (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval. **These signatures must appear on a separate sheet.** If multiple departments or colleges are sponsoring the proposal, please add the appropriate signature lines below.)

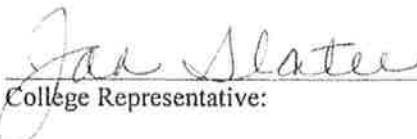
Signatures:



Unit Representative:

12/11/13

Date:



College Representative:

12/13/13

Date:



Graduate College Representative:

3/7/2014

Date:

Council on Teacher Education Representative:

Date:

Appendix A:
(Budgetary and Staff Implications)
(Replace the following material with your appendix, if any.)

N/A

Appendix B:
(Proposed Curriculum Revisions)
(Replace the following material with your appendix, if any.)

Appendix B:
(Proposed Curriculum Revisions)

Master of Science in Journalism

Current Requirements	Required Hours	Revised Requirements	Revised Hours
JOUR 500 Issues in Journalism	2	JOUR 500 Contemporary Issues in Journalism	4
JOUR 505 Master's Proseminar	4	JOUR 505 Master's Proseminar	4
JOUR 510 Master's Readings	2-3		
JOUR 515 Master's Project	4	JOUR 515 Master's Project	8
Research/Project hours	4 hours min		
Department approved professional option	16		
Additional Electives	3-4	Minimum of four JOUR 400- or 500-level electives. For students entering without an approved baccalaureate degree in Journalism, one of the electives must be JOUR 501, Intensive Reporting and Writing Across Platforms for 4 hours	16
TOTAL	32	TOTAL	32
Minimum 500-level hours overall	12	Minimum 500-level hours overall	16
Minimum GPA:	2.875	Minimum GPA:	3.0

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

University Library
Office of Dean of Libraries
and University Librarian
230 Main Library, MC-522
1408 West Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801



December 6, 2013

Julian Parrott
Associate Dean for Student Services and Academic Affairs
Room 18 Gregory Hall
M/C 462

Dear Professor Parrott:

Thank you for giving the University Library the opportunity to review the College of Media's proposal to revise the M.S. in Journalism degree to create (a.) a 4+1 sequence that combines a bachelor's and master's degrees in the Department of Journalism, College of Media; and to create (b.) a deep knowledge sequence to attract applicants with advanced degrees in such fields as the sciences, engineering, technology and math. Based upon a review of the draft proposal that we received from you on December 3, it is our belief that there will be no significant impact on our operations or collections.

If additional services or materials are required as the program develops—particularly in response the research needs of the faculty being brought in as part of this program, we will be happy to discuss those needs as they emerge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Wilkin', written over a faint, larger signature.

John Wilkin
Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson
Dean of Libraries and University Librarian

c: Lisa Romero
Thomas Teper

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.14.31

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



March 14, 2014

Gay Miller, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Media and the Graduate College to revise the MS in Journalism and establish a combined BS/MS in Journalism.

The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the College of Media as well as the Graduate College Executive Committee. It now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristi A. Kuntz".

Kristi A. Kuntz
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: M. Lowry
R. Martin
J. Parrott

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Graduate College

204 Coble Hall
801 South Wright Street
Champaign, IL 61820-6210

March 7, 2014

Executive Committee

2013-2014 Members

Debasish Dutta, *Chair*

Members

David Ceperley

Dilip Chhajed

Susan Cole

Susan Gamsey

Tina Greenlee

David Hays

Christine Jenkins

Ashleigh Jones

Jack Juvik

Ramona Oswald

Yoon Pak

Glauco Paulino

Dana Rabin

Joseph Rosenblatt

Carla Santos

Renee Trilling

Kristi Kuntz
Office of the Provost
207 Swanlund MC-304

Dear Kristi,

Enclosed please find the proposal seeking revision to the M.S. in Journalism degree to create (a.) a 4+1 sequence that combines a bachelor's and master's degrees in the Department of Journalism, College of Media; and to create (b.) a deep knowledge sequence to attract applicants with advanced degrees in such fields as the sciences, engineering, technology and math.

The Graduate College Executive Committee has approved this proposal. I send it to you now for further review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deba Dutta".

Deba Dutta
Dean, Graduate College

c: A. Edwards
A. Kopera
M. Lowry



**Senate Educational Policy Committee
Proposal Check Sheet**

PROPOSAL TITLE (Same as on proposal): Revise the MS in Journalism degree to create (a.) a 4+1 sequence that combines a bachelor's and master's degrees in the Department of Journalism, College of Media; and to create (b.) a deep knowledge sequence to attract applicants with advanced degrees in such fields as the sciences, engineering, technology and math.

PROPOSAL TYPE (select all that apply below):

A. Proposal for a NEW or REVISED degree program. Please consult the Programs of Study Catalog for official titles of existing degree programs.

1. Degree program level:

Graduate Professional Undergraduate

2. Proposal for a new degree (e.g. B.S., M.A. or Ph.D.):

 Degree name, "e.g., Bachelor of Arts or Master of Science": _____

3. Proposal for a new or revised major, concentration, or minor:

New or Revised **Major** in (name of existing or proposed major): MS in Journalism

New or Revised **Concentration** in (name of existing or proposed concentration): _____

New or Revised **Minor** in (name of existing or proposed minor): _____

4. Proposal to rename an existing major, concentration, or minor:

Major Concentration Minor

 Current name: _____

 Proposed new name: _____

5. Proposal to terminate an existing degree, major, concentration, or minor:

Degree Major Concentration Minor

 Name of existing degree, major, or concentration: _____

6. Proposal involving a multi-institutional degree:

New Revision Termination

Name of existing Illinois (UIUC) degree: _____

Name of non-Illinois partnering institution: _____

Location of non-Illinois partnering institution:

State of Illinois US State: _____ Foreign country: _____

- B. Proposal to create a new academic unit (college, school, department, program or other academic unit):

Name of proposed new unit: _____

- C. Proposal to rename an existing academic unit (college, school, department, or other academic unit):

Current name of unit: _____

Proposed new name of unit: _____

- D. Proposal to reorganize existing units (colleges, schools, departments, or program):

1. Proposal to change the status of an existing and approved unit (e.g. change from a program to department)

Name of current unit including status: _____

2. Proposal to transfer an existing unit:

Current unit's name and home: _____

Proposed new home for the unit: _____

3. Proposal to merge two or more existing units (e.g., merge department A with department B):

Name and college of unit one to be merged: _____

Name and college of unit two to be merged: _____

Proposed name and college of new (merged) unit: _____

4. Proposal to terminate an existing unit:

Current unit's name and status: _____

- E. **Other educational policy proposals** (e.g., academic calendar, grading policies, etc.)

Nature of the proposal: _____

Revised 10/2012