



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Transfer the Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL) from the Institute of Government and Public Affairs to the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

SPONSOR: James Paul, Asst. Director, IGPA, jimpaul@uillinois.edu, 244-6762; and Sandy Dall’Erba, Associate Professor, Department of ACE, dallerba@uillinois.edu, 300-2727

COLLEGE CONTACT: Mary Lowry, Assistant Dean, ACES Office of Academic Programs, lowry@uillinois.edu, 333-9391

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: We propose to move REAL from Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA) to the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics (ACE) in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES). REAL is a grant-funded laboratory that was created in 1989 as a cooperative venture between the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the University of Illinois focusing on the development and use of analytical models for urban and regional economic development. The official transfer will integrate a public service component into the range of economic impact and analytical modeling activities within ACE and will allow IGPA to consolidate and focus its efforts on its core mission—public policy research and leadership training in service of the State of Illinois.

The proposed transfer was approved in concept by ACE Department Head John (Sean) Fox, ACES Dean Kimberlee Kidwell, Interim IGPA Director Jon Davis, and EVPAA Barbara J. Wilson on Oct. 31, 2018.

JUSTIFICATION: REAL was formed with the intent of providing high quality economic modeling capability at modest cost to individuals, public and private corporations, and federal, state, and local government agencies interested in understanding past economic trends and desiring projections on future employment and production levels. The Laboratory is staffed by professionals drawn from personnel of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and several graduate research assistants from several departments including IGPA, Agricultural and Consumer Economics, Economics, and Urban and Regional Planning. While REAL’s primary focus has been on the economies of the Midwest, REAL has collaborated in the development of econometric models for several regions on the east coast, for states in Brazil and for the Jakarta Metropolitan region. Pilip Israilevich (FED Chicago) and Geoffrey J.D. Hewings (UIUC) were the founders of this not-for-profit Laboratory. The joint venture with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago lasted until 2001.

The transfer of REAL to ACES was originally discussed in 2017 after the retirement of Hewings and appointment of a new director, Sandy Dall’erba, whose academic appointment is in the

Department of ACE. A series of discussions ensued among IGPA and ACES to assess the benefits and costs of the transfer, and the two units agreed that the move would constitute a good programmatic fit and a net positive for their units and the University. Most importantly, the transfer will strengthen both IGPA and ACES. REAL will continue the work on its grants, intergovernmental agency agreements and contracts throughout the transfer process, minimizing disruption to all projects as much as possible.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS: *(Please respond to each of the following questions.)*

1) Resources

- a. How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?
Neither ACE nor ACES will provide financial support, as REAL is a grant-funded unit within the University of Illinois system. A transfer from IGPA to ACES will not affect its current grants or its potential to win new grants from its funders. Current grants and projects within REAL will be transferred to ACES. IGPA will document the transfer and the financial and HR transactions that have occurred.
- b. How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity?
Future public service and research opportunities will be developed by REAL staff and ACES faculty and staff once the transfer occurs. No functions or programs will be discontinued.
- c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support.
No additional resources will be needed or requested.
- d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program.
No financial arrangements have been requested or offered.

2) Resource Implications

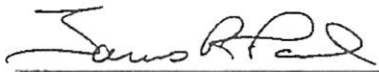
- a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.
No faculty lines are housed in REAL. Two graduate-student employees paid on an external grant will be transferred. The justification for the transfer of personnel is that the current REAL employees are essential to completing the goals and mission of REAL. IGPA will assume the financial liability for paid benefits of vacation and/or sick leave hours accrued through the time of transfer for these personnel. The REAL staff will maintain their lines of reporting structure.
- a. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units.
REAL has no academic teaching responsibilities or needs.
- b. Please address the impact on the University Library
This is an existing unit, and thus no new resources are needed.
- c. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.)
REAL will continue to occupy its current space in Mumford Hall. Professor Hewings will retain his office at IGPA.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019


STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG: N/A

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 (IGPA)

1/18/19
Date:


Unit Representative (ACE):

1/18/19
Date:


College Representative (ACES):

1/23/19
Date:

N/A
Graduate College Representative:

Date:

N/A
Council on Teacher Education Representative:

Date:

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



January 23, 2019

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

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a proposal from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) to transfer the Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL) from the Institute of Government and Public Affairs to the College of ACES.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathryn A. Martensen'.

Kathryn A. Martensen
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: J. Paul
S. Dall'Erba
M. Lowry
A. Edwards
E. Stuby