

# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Urbana-Champaign • Chicago • Springfield

University Academic Programs and Services  
377 Henry Administration Building  
506 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801-3689

August 13, 2013

Ocheng Jany  
Illinois Board of Higher Education  
431 East Adams, Second Floor  
Springfield, IL 62701-1418

Dear Ocheng:

I write to request a Reasonable and Moderate Extension of the IBHE in approving the redesignation and reorganization of the Bachelor of Science in Journalism (BSJ) from majors in Broadcast Journalism and in News Editorial to the Bachelor of Science (BS) with a major in Journalism, College of Media, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This change is sought as an RME under the provision: "creation of a new program that results from the reorganization or restructuring of the curricular elements...."

The redesignation and curriculum reorganization provides flexibility for the journalism program in the future and gives the program a name unencumbered by outdated media labels and concepts. Such changes have been enacted at many peer programs including Northwestern University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Wisconsin, Ohio University, and Indiana University. The change better reflects modern professional practice in which distinctions based on the particular name of a journalism medium are dissolving. The change will give journalism students greater latitude in course planning. The two majors are now largely the same, differing primarily by a set of three courses. With the change, students will no longer face some course restrictions required under the current majors. This will give students greater course flexibility and better prepare them for a rapidly changing journalism profession.

Current students in the News Editorial and Broadcast Journalism programs will be allowed to choose the new major or continue on to graduation under the "old" distinctions. Advisers in the College of Media Student Services Center will closely monitor the progress of all journalism students toward their degrees to ensure that students successfully satisfy either "old" or "new" requirements.

The CIP for the new B.S. in Journalism will retain 09.0401, the current CIP for the B.S.J. in News-Editorial.

Please don't hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Marilyn M. M. Marshall  
Assistant Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

Copy: Ellen Foran  
Kristi Kuntz  
Christophe Pierre  
Kathy Van Ormer