

**NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION, PUBLIC SERVICE  
AND RESEARCH AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** This item requests permanent approval of a new center, The European Union Center (EUC), at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the following:

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- The European Union Center



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION, PUBLIC SERVICE,  
AND RESEARCH AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**

By statute, the Illinois Board of Higher Education is responsible for approving new on-campus and off-campus units of instruction, organized research, and public service, proposed by public university governing boards. The Board's approval criteria, defined in rules adopted for administering the statute, address university mission, academic control, faculty and staff, support services, financial resources, student demand, curriculum, statewide need, and congruence with Board policies and priorities. In addition to the approval criteria in rules, each new program was reviewed for its contributions to the goals of *The Illinois Commitment* that set forth new priorities to guide Illinois higher education in the first decade of the new millennium. Staff recommendations are based on analyses of application materials and responses to staff questions, and for a few programs, recommendations of external consultants.

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

- The European Union Center

**Background.** The principal objective of the European Union Center (EUC) is to serve as a bridge of exchange and understanding between residents of the United States and member states of the European Union (EU). One of ten EU Centers established with major financial support from the European Commission, the Center brings together faculty and students from across campus to promote the study of the European Union, its institutions and policies, and EU-U.S. relations. Working with other campus units and other institutions, the EU Center also creates high-quality, high-profile programs that serve Illinois businesses, policy makers, high-school teachers and students, and the general public. As one of the most comprehensive EU Centers in the United States, the Center is the focal point on campus for teaching, research, and outreach programs on the European Union. A unit of International Programs and Studies, the Center was designated by the United States Department of Education as a Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Areas Studies Fellowship Program. Title VI funds allow the Center to support the development of new courses with EU content in undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs, support thematic conferences and workshops, expand UIUC library resources on the EU, and incorporate EU curriculum into K-12 teacher training workshops.

***The Illinois Commitment.*** The proposed program will meet several goals of *The Illinois Commitment*, as summarized below.

*Goal 1: Help Illinois business and industry sustain strong economic growth.* The EUC conducts workshops with Illinois businesses in manufacturing, agriculture, legal and commercial services to provide them up-to-date working knowledge of the European Union (EU), its history, institutions, and conventions. Knowledge provided through these workshops helps Illinois

companies work with the EU. These businesses produce nearly 24% of Illinois exports and 50,000 Illinois jobs.

*Goal 2: Higher education will join elementary and secondary education to improve teaching and learning at all levels.* One of the primary goals of the EUC is to incorporate the EU into K-12 curriculum through teacher training workshops. The EUC collaborates to provide resource fairs for elementary and secondary teachers, conducts a summer institute at which educators learn how to incorporate EU material into their curriculum, and stages joint symposia on global themes.

*Goal 3: No Illinois citizen will be denied an opportunity for a college education because of financial need.* To provide opportunities for all educators and students to learn about and research the EU, the Center funds competitive grants for travel and research.

*Goal 4: Increase the number and diversity of citizens completing training and education.* By increasing the knowledge of the EU across Illinois and the Midwest, the EUC brings diversity awareness to students and faculty. It hosts visiting scholars, promotes study abroad for students, and conducts outreach activities to promote greater mutual understanding between citizens of Illinois and citizens of member states of the European Union.

*Goal 5: Hold students to even higher expectations for learning and be accountable for the quality of academic programs and the assessment of learning.* The demand for workshops is high, a sign that faculty, students, and businesspeople are satisfied that they receive quality information at EUC-sponsored activities. With the other university-based EU Centers, the UIUC Center underwent an evaluation by a professional evaluation company based in England that found slow, but steady progress in implementing the goals of the Center. Assessment of Center activities will be continued on various levels and through a range of forums to ensure that the Center promotes effective programs.

## **Need**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(6): A) The unit of instruction, research, or public service is educationally and economically justified based on the educational priorities and needs of the citizens of Illinois; B) The unit of instruction, research, or public service meets a need that is not currently met by existing institutions and units of instruction, research, or public service.*

The State of Illinois and the European Union are closely interdependent. In 2004, Illinois goods exported to the EU totaled over \$7.2 billion and accounted for almost 24% of the total state exports. These exports directly accounted for over 50,000 jobs. As the economy of Illinois becomes increasingly integrated with that of the EU, more and more professionals working in agriculture, manufacturing, legal and commercial services, higher education, and government will need up-to-date working knowledge of the European Union, its history, its institutions, and its conventions. The EU Center at UIUC is helping to train the next generation of European specialists in various disciplines and professions in the state of Illinois. The Center makes measurable contributions to the satisfaction of statewide priorities and needs in the forms of new courses on the European Union (and on EU and U.S. relations) developed for undergraduate and graduate students, research projects and scholarly conferences supported (with resulting publications), workshops conducted for educators and businesspeople, and outreach activities hosted to promote greater mutual understanding between citizens of Illinois and citizens of member states of the European Union. The EU Center also maintains a comprehensive web site that is available to all citizens of Illinois at <http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/eu/>.

Undergraduate and graduate courses whose development has been supported by the EU Center are fully subscribed. Enrollment numbers for courses with EU-related content are high. For example, the total enrollment in “Politics and Culture of the EU,” “Problems in European History,” and “European Economies,” a few of the Center’s leading courses for the 2003-04 Academic Year, was 156 undergraduate and 25 graduate students. The demand for research and travel grants given by the Center to faculty and students at UIUC exceeds the supply. Scholarly conferences supported by the Center are well attended by members of the university community and K-12 educators. Workshops on curriculum development for K-12 educators and on conducting business in Europe, for business people, are well attended.

### **Comparable Programs in Illinois**

The European Union Center is the only center of its type in Illinois.

### **Mission and Objectives**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(1): A) The objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are consistent with the mission of the college or university; B) The objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are consistent with what the unit title implies.*

The EU Center shares the university’s three-fold mission of teaching, research, and outreach and promotes the university’s priority of internationalizing the curriculum and the educational experiences of university students. With respect to *teaching*, the Center supports a concentration of undergraduate courses on the EU within the multidisciplinary major in international studies, promotes study abroad opportunities in Europe, provides funds for the development of new undergraduate courses with substantial EU content and brings speakers on EU-U.S. relations to the UIUC campus. The Center also serves as a resource for graduate students whose studies focus on the European Union and offers a two-semester interdisciplinary research seminar. With respect to *research*, the Center supports interdisciplinary workshops and conferences that address specific policy issues, supports faculty and graduate research with competitive grants, offers conference travel grants, and publishes a series of working papers and white papers by faculty and graduate students affiliated with the Center.

With respect to *outreach*, the Center conducts a wide variety of programs that serve to promote understanding of the European Union and its relationship with the United States. The Center provides resources in support of teaching about the European Union in middle and high schools and the development of curriculum. The Center collaborates with other area studies centers at UIUC to 1) put on resource fairs and workshops for K-12 educators, 2) to conduct an International Summer Institute each year to assist educators in internationalizing their curriculum, and 3) to stage joint area center symposia on global themes. The EU Center also works with the Center for International Business Education and Research at UIUC to present workshops for the Illinois business community on doing business in the EU. The major annual outreach event of the Center is EU Day, which brings noted European leaders to the UIUC campus to interact with UIUC administrators, faculty, students and the public. Highlights of the day include the State of the European Union address, presented by an ambassador from an EU member state, and an essay contest for high school students. The Center’s annual outreach event that has the greatest public exposure is the Illinois State Fair exhibit, which educates the public about the EU and its importance to the State of Illinois. The exhibit is visited by over 20,000 people each year.

## Organization

The EU Center is a unit in International Programs and Studies (IPS) at UIUC. The Center has a 50% full-time equivalent (FTE) Executive Director who reports to the Director of IPS. A full-time Associate Director reports to the Executive Director and administers the delivery of all other programs and operations of the EU Center on a day to day basis. A full-time Outreach Coordinator reports to the Associate Director, plans public events, and liaises with K-12 educators, business people, and international consulates. A half-time Secretary IV assists the Director, Associate Director and Outreach Coordinator. The Center's staff is supported by one graduate outreach assistant (50%) and one undergraduate student assistant (20%). The EU Center's operations are overseen by a program board comprised of twelve other faculty members, with deep interests in EU-U.S. relations, representing all colleges on the UIUC campus.

## Curriculum and Assessment

*Criterion 1050.30(b)(1) [applicable only to units of instruction]: A) The caliber and content to the curriculum assure that the objectives of the unit of instruction will be achieved; B) The breadth and depth of the curriculum are consistent with what the title of the unit of instruction implies; C) The admission and graduation requirements for the unit of instruction are consistent with the stated objectives of the unit of instruction; D) Provision is made for guidance and counseling of students, evaluations of student performance, continuous monitoring of progress of students toward their degree objectives and appropriate academic record-keeping.*

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(2): The design, conduct, and evaluation of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are under the direct and continuous control of the sponsoring institution's established processes for academic planning and quality maintenance.*

### Curriculum

The curriculum criteria do not apply to centers.

### Outcomes and Assessment

#### Expected research and/or public service products

Drawing upon the resources of the University of Illinois, the EUC proposes a program of teaching, research, and public outreach that takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the EU and Europe.

The EUC will create a new generation of experts on the challenges confronting the European people, the European Union, and the EU member and accession states by:

- Expanding course offerings in undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs,
- Developing foreign-language-across-the-curriculum (FLAC) courses with EU content, and
- Developing courses in less commonly taught languages of the EU accession countries.

To facilitate research on the policy issues confronting the European Union and the United States, the EUC:

- Provides support for conferences and workshops,
- Promotes research in EU and European Studies with research seed grants,
- Expands library resources on the European Union, and
- Develops delivery of library resources to faculty and students abroad.

To create bonds between the people of the United States and the European states, the EUC maintains an extensive outreach program by:

- Incorporating an EU curriculum into K-12 through teacher training workshops,
- Providing briefings for members of the Illinois legislature, and
- Conducting workshops on doing business in Europe for the business community.

#### Ratio of external to internal funding for the unit

The EUC has enjoyed considerable success in attracting external funding. Three grants received through the U.S. Department of Education have provided the following for a three-year period: extensive programmatic support for course development, policy-related research, K-12 outreach, Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships for 10 graduate students each year, undergraduate training and foreign exchange, faculty exchange, and public events. The salaries of Center staff continue to be fully funded via internal sources (i.e. State of Illinois).

#### Impact of this unit on national, state, regional and local area organizations, business, or communities

Through its various public outreach events and programs (an annual European Union Day, Ambassador Series, summer institutes for K-12 teachers, Illinois State Fair exhibit, public lectures and conferences, and a web site rich in resources for teachers, researchers, and the general public), the EUC has a significant impact on regional, state, and national groups and institutions. In addition, working papers generated from the Center's conferences increase the scholarly conversation on EU-U.S. relations.

#### **Facilities (space, equipment, instructional materials)**

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(4): A) Facilities, equipment, and instructional resources (e.g., laboratory supplies and equipment, instructional materials, computational equipment) necessary to support the high-quality academic work in the unit of instruction, research, or public service are available and maintained; B) Clinical sites necessary to meet the objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service; C) Library holdings and acquisitions, owned or contracted for by the institution, that are necessary to support high-quality instruction and scholarship in the unit of instruction, research, and public service, are conveniently available and accessible, and can be maintained.*

#### General Facilities

The Center's activities are supported by current UIUC facilities and physical resources through the International Programs and Studies office.

## Library Resources

The Center's staff meet regularly with the campus librarian who oversees the acquisition of materials on the European Union to discuss collection development.

## Faculty and Staff

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(3): A) The academic preparation and experience of faculty and staff to ensure that the objectives of the unit of instruction, research, or public service are met; B) The academic preparation and experience of faculty and staff, as evidenced by level of degrees held, professional experience in the field of study and demonstrated knowledge of the field, ensure that they are able to fulfill their academic responsibilities; C) The involvement of faculty in the unit of instruction, research, or public service is sufficient to cover the various fields of knowledge encompassed by the unit, to sustain scholarship appropriate to the unit, and to assure curricular continuity and consistency in student evaluation; D) Support personnel, including but not limited to counselors, administrators, clinical supervisors, and technical staff, which are directly assigned to the unit of instruction, research, or public service, have the educational background and experience necessary to carry out their assigned responsibilities.*

Over 100 faculty members from various disciplines participate in the EUC unit through such activities as: focusing their courses on EU-U.S. relations; supporting Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships; applying for EUC travel grants; providing lectures for the EUC graduate seminar; developing new EU related courses; organizing EU related events in their departments; submitting EU related papers for the EUC working paper series; supporting and creating study abroad programs; attending and speaking at various EUC events; and serving on the EUC Program Board.

## Fiscal Resources

*Criterion 1050.30(a)(5): A) The financial commitments to support the unit of instruction, research, or public service are sufficient to ensure that the faculty and staff and support services necessary to offer the unit of instruction, research, or public service can be acquired and maintained; B) Projections of revenues necessary to support the unit of instruction, research, or public service are based on supportable estimates of state appropriations, local tax support, student tuition, and fees, private gifts, and/or governmental grants and contracts.*

## Student Enrollment and Funding Sources

Over 200 UIUC students from across the disciplines participate in the EU Center through such activities as: focusing their studies on EU issues; applying for Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships; applying for other EUC grant opportunities; enrolling in EUC graduate seminar; giving brown bag lectures on EU research in their departments; submitting EU related papers for the EUC working paper series; enrolling in study abroad programs; attending and assisting in various EUC events; creating EU student groups such as the new EU Registered Student Organization; presenting EU papers at conferences; and seeking advisement on EU international careers and education.

The Center is currently funded through a number of external grants, including:

- US-ED National Resource Center Title VI, Extended Grant, \$230,000 (extended until August 14, 2007);
- US-ED National Resource Center Title VI, \$206,857 (August 15, 2006 through August 14, 2007);
- US-ED Foreign Language and Area Studies, \$134,000 (August 15, 2006 through August 14, 2007); and
- US-ED FIPSE, Extended Grant, \$59,994 (extended until August 31, 2007).

**Staff Conclusion.** The staff concludes that the permanent approval of The European Union Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign meets the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205/et.seq.) as set forth in 23 Illinois Administrative Code, Ch. II, Section 1050.30, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

The staff recommends that the Illinois Board of Higher Education adopt the following resolutions:

*The Illinois board of Higher Education hereby grants the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign permanent approval for The European Union Center, subject to the institution's maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

