CAMPUS SENATE AY 2007/2008
RESOLUTION 37-3

Proposal for Graduate Certificate in IT Project Management
in the Department of Management Information Systems

WHEREAS, the Department of Management Information Systems has proposed a
Graduate Certificate in IT Project Management [12 credit hours]; and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Council approved their request at the meeting of May 7, 2007,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Campus Senate of the University of
Illinois at Springfield hereby approve the Graduate Certificate in IT Project
Management.
Proposed Graduate Certificate in IT Project Management
College of Business and Management
Management Information Systems Department

Purpose of certificate: Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The purpose of the Certificate in IT Project Management is to provide information systems practitioners with the fundamental knowledge needed to manage information technology projects. The initial motivation for this certificate comes from the Management Information Systems Department’s emerging relationship with the State of Illinois’ Illinois Technology Board of Advisors (ITBA).

The Illinois Technology Board of Advisors (ITBA) is a consortium of Information Technology professionals, consisting of more than 200 active members. The group consists of Chief Information Officers, Directors of Technology, or other senior IT professionals serving in various positions throughout Illinois State Government. This organization provides a forum for identification, discussion, collaboration, and resolution of common issues that arise within the state’s IT community. The ITBA works with the Governor’s Office, Central Management Services, and other policy making bodies to promote enhanced quality, productivity, and operational efficiency within technology-enabled business solutions. More recently, the ITBA has extended its collaborative processes to include associate members from local government, educational institutions, and other government entities.

The state has undergone a series of early retirement initiatives, staffing reductions, and above average attrition. As a result, it now needs to redevelop the specialized knowledge and expertise of its professional and technical staff in order to pursue anticipated technology-enabled business initiatives. Additionally, its’ professional and technical staff needs to learn new skills and best practices not utilized in the past.

Based on a survey of state CIO’s and IT Managers, 94% agree there is a compelling need for professional certification and continuing education opportunities for IT professionals in state government. Based upon the need for the state to have properly run information technology projects, a certificate in IT Project Management is an important step in developing the skills needed to make this a reality.

“Today, project management is used globally by multi-billion-dollar corporations, governments, and smaller organizations alike as a means of meeting their customers’ or constituents’ needs by both standardizing and reducing the basic tasks necessary to complete a project in the most effective and efficient manner. As a result, project management leadership is a highly desirable and sought-after skill as intense global competition demands that new projects and business development be completed on time and within budget.” (Project Management Institute - http://www.pmi.org/info/PP_WhatIsAProject.asp)
While the motivation for this certificate comes from the government sector, much of the same needs in the field of information technology exist in the private sector as well. Consequently, this certificate will serve not only information technology practitioners in state government; it will be equally valuable for private sector practitioners as well.

**Target audiences**

Information technology practitioners, from both the public and private sectors, who need to acquire knowledge and skills needed to manage information technology projects. Within the state government environment, this represents in excess of 1200 employees.

**Proposed curriculum**

The certificate may be taken as a stand-alone piece or may be incorporated into a student’s work on a Master of Science in Management Information Systems degree. The certificate will consist of the three courses listed below. These courses currently exist in the Master of Science in Management Information Systems degree program.

**MIS 513 – Management Information Systems (4 hours)**

Provides a foundation for understanding and analyzing information in organizations. Fundamental concepts of systems and information are covered. Topics include computer-based information systems, user requirements, and analysis and specification of systems requirements, life cycle, and security.

**MIS 552 – Systems Analysis and Design (4 hours)**

The overall goal of this course is to introduce students to a wide range of theoretical as well as practical techniques and methodologies in the area of information systems analysis and design. The course will train the students to assume roles such as systems analyst and technical project management in their career. The three most important topics addressed in the course are Analysis, Design, and Implementation of information systems where Systems Development Life Cycle, various diagramming techniques, and decision analysis concepts are discussed and practiced.

**MIS 573 – Project Management (4 hours)**

Managing Information Systems/Technology projects within an organizational context, including the processes related to initiating, planning, executing, controlling, reporting, and closing a project. Covers topics such as project integration, scope, time, cost, quality control, risk management, and earned value management. Students will be exposed to knowledge base needed for the Project Management Institute’s Project Management Professional certification.

Certificate total – 12 hours.
Relation to degree programs

The three courses that make up this certificate are required courses for the Master of Science in Management Information Systems degree and are offered on a regular basis.

Occupational and/or student demand

An increasingly competitive and ever-changing work environment provides a compelling reason for public (and private) sector employees to pursue continuing education and/or professional development opportunities. The state of Illinois has already begun a comprehensive information management metamorphosis including upgrading its infrastructure and establishing an enterprise architecture model. The state must continue to incorporate state-of-the-art technologies and business best practices in order to significantly reduce its operating costs while simultaneously increasing the overall business value and efficiency of its current communications and computing environment. A key to success in this effort is the development of a significant number of employees with skills in the area of project management. There will be an ongoing need to have employees who have the knowledge and skills to both manage and work on projects.

Through the collective support of the ITBA membership, tuition reimbursement could be promoted as a priority throughout the state to provide assistance to those employees wishing to pursue this certificate.

Additionally, all courses within the certificate will be offered online and on-campus. It is expected that online demand will be greater than on-campus demand. One factor pushing a higher demand for online certificate programs is highlighted in a recent article in The Chronicle of Higher Education. In the article it states, “More employers prefer online training to traditional classroom learning when it comes to college and university certificate programs for their workers, according to a new report from Eduventures Inc. … According to the report, 52 percent of employers surveyed said they would be likely or very likely to purchase, endorse, or support a traditional classroom program at a main college campus, while 64 percent responded the same way regarding an Internet-only format.”

F. Staffing and resource requirements

The implementation of this certificate uses existing courses which will be taught by existing faculty. These courses are offered on a regular basis and historically seats are available, particularly for on campus sections. Depending on the success of the IT Project Management Certificate program, additional sections may need to be offered.

Administrative issues

1. Responsible Administrative Unit

   College of Business and Management, Management Information Systems Department.
2. Admissions
   a) Eligibility
      Possession of Bachelor’s degree.
   b) Admissions process
      Applicants would follow normal admission procedures.

3. Advising
   An advisor from the Management Information Systems department will be assigned.

4. Tracking
   Files for each student will be kept in the Management Information Systems department central office.

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