WHEREAS, the online graduate certificate will provide K-12 teachers with a State of Illinois Endorsement in English as a Second Language (ESL); and

WHEREAS, the graduate certificate would qualify educators to teach students whose first language is not English at both the K-12 and Community College levels; and

WHEREAS, there are job postings on the Illinois Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Language – Bilingual Education and the Illinois State Board of Education websites that require this endorsement and personnel at the Illinois State Board of Education have indicated this is an area of growing need within the state of Illinois; and

FURTHERMORE, this certificate would be the only online format offered by an Illinois institution that would allow access to teachers in the rural areas of Illinois who might not otherwise have access to this type of graduate certificate; and

FURTHERMORE, the classes proposed will be offered in an online format as a graduate certificate from the Master Teacher Leadership Master Degree Program; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2009, the Graduate Council unanimously approved the proposal for a Graduate Certificate in English as a Second Language;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Campus Senate of the University of Illinois at Springfield hereby approve the proposed Graduate Certificate in English as a Second Language.