

Board Meeting  
January 17, 2008

**REVISED**

ESTABLISH THE AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR WITHIN THE  
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES DEGREE,  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, URBANA

**Action:** Approve the Establishment of the African American Studies Major within the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences Degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish a major in African American Studies within the Bachelor of Arts Degree.

The proposed major will build an in-depth appreciation of African American history, culture, and perspectives. The undergraduate degree works to provide every student with a deep understanding of heterogeneous culture, to acquire an acquaintance with basic cultural aspects, and examine in some depth the culture of an African derived people which may be foreign to the student. Students will obtain a comprehensive background, and will be extremely well informed of the centrality of race in the development of the United States and its continued significance for contemporary society.

~~The undergraduate degree in African American Studies will impart to students the basic ability to read and listen intelligently, write and speak coherently, and observe and respond critically to a variety of forms of communication. It will help students think clearly, critically, and creatively; think quantitatively and qualitatively; and acquire an attitude which reflects curiosity.~~ Students will develop a desire to continue to learn, a respect for evidence, a tolerance of disagreement, and a positive acceptance of change.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University concurs. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.