

Board Meeting
January 21, 2010

ESTABLISH THE PROGRAM IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES, COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, CHICAGO

Action: Approve Establishment of a Program in Asian American Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recommends the establishment of a Program in Asian American Studies.

As one of the College of Liberal Arts and Science's interdisciplinary studies programs, the Program in Asian American Studies will offer a minor and a variety of courses under its own established course subject (rubric), as well as in conjunction with other programs.

Asian American Studies aims to provide students with the breadth and depth of knowledge to understand and address social, cultural, and political issues through the lens of Asian American histories and experiences. As an interdisciplinary field, Asian American Studies draws from work in a variety of disciplines and specializations, integrating it through a focus upon the place of Asian Americans in American society and the world.

Currently, Asian American Studies lacks cohesiveness as faculty and courses are scattered across different departments and academic units. The establishment

of a Program in Asian American Studies will provide coherence to the curriculum and an institutional base for faculty research in the field, making it easier for students to find courses and bring together the core faculty with others who share their intellectual interests.

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 Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

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