

Board Meeting
January 21, 2016

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

Action: Reorganize and Consolidate the Program in Asian American Studies and the Program in Asian Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Interim Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Chicago Senate and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recommends the reorganization and consolidation of the Program in Asian American Studies and the Program in Asian Studies as the Program in Global Asian Studies.

Currently, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has interdisciplinary programs in both Asian American Studies and Asian Studies. Asian American Studies explores the histories, identities, cultural expressions, social and community formations, and politics of people of Asian ancestry in the United States, while Asian Studies explores the histories, cultures, and societies of East, Southeast, and South Asia. Both programs draw upon expertise within departments and colleges across the Chicago campus, and both offer undergraduate minors in their respective disciplines.

The College believes a single Global Asian Studies (GLAS) Program that

emphasizes Asia and Asian diasporas, transnationalism, and globalization will be advantageous for faculty and students, allowing for increased opportunities to explore the linkages and tensions between Asian/Asian American ethnic and area studies. Further a combined program resonates with and will enhance UIC's mission and goals, namely: fostering "scholarship and practices that reflect the increasing diversity of the U.S. in a rapidly globalizing world; enhancing study abroad, international programs, partnerships and collaborations, exchanges and affiliations; and increasing globally focused and cross-national comparative research; creating curricular and co-curricular opportunities for our students to gain a broader understanding of the world." The creation of the GLAS Program has near unanimous support of the faculty, and students are overwhelmingly in favor of the new direction of the program.

The programs in Asian American Studies and Asian Studies are units, not departments, and as such neither has a chair or head. Instead the programs are administered by a director and a coordinator respectively. The distinction is that Asian American Studies is a unit in which faculty can hold tenurable appointments. The GLAS Program will be administered by a director and faculty may hold tenurable appointments. All current faculty and staff in Asian and Asian American Studies will hold either appointments or affiliations in the Global Asian Studies Program. Finally, the GLAS Program, like its predecessors, will have both student and community advisory boards.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respect 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 President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.