

Board Meeting
July 22, 2010

REORGANIZE AND ESTABLISH MASTER'S DEGREES, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS AND SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

Action: Reorganize the Existing Master of Arts Degree in Asian Studies and Establish the Master of Arts Degree in East Asian Studies and the Master of Arts Degree in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College

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 and the Graduate College to reorganize the existing Master of Arts Degree in Asian Studies and establish the Master of Arts Degree in East Asian Studies and the Master of Arts Degree in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

The current Master of Arts Degree in Asian Studies has evolved to serve two distinct populations: students entering graduate work in East Asian Studies, for whom the masters program serves as the only entry point to doctoral studies in East Asian Languages and Cultures, and those students who wish to do masters level work in South Asian and/or Middle Eastern Studies. The East Asian Program is self-identified as a program in the languages and the humanistic cultures of East Asia, whereas the South Asian and Middle Eastern program is oriented toward the social sciences, particularly economics, political science, anthropology, and sociology, as well as the humanities

fields. This proposal seeks to separate out these two populations into distinct Master's Degree programs allowing the department to respond to differences in disciplines, advertise the programs more effectively, and serve our students better and more efficiently.

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