

Board Meeting  
March 23, 2011

RENAME THE DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS,  
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE ARTS, CHICAGO

**Action:** Rename the Department of Performing Arts, College of Architecture and the Arts

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Vice President/Chancellor at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate and the College of Architecture and the Arts recommends the renaming of the Department of Performing Arts as the Department of Theatre and Music.

The Department of Performing Arts name change to the Department of Theatre and Music reflects more accurately the educational, research, and creative programs within the department. The current name “Performing Arts” was chosen when the department was created in 1994. At that time, the department also housed a dance program, which was later discontinued. The umbrella term of “Performing Arts” has been problematic because it masks the strengths of the department in the areas of theatre and music. It also evokes an array of connotations (i.e., opera, dance, performance art, moving image) to the campus and the public. These presumptions are misleading and obscure, in search engines, signage, etc., the existence of its degree programs.

The music curricula are distinct from the theatre curricula; neither overlaps. Interdisciplinary productions and activities occasionally occur between the two programs,

but no courses are currently shared as requirements or as electives between the disciplines. The new title would do nothing to restrict interdisciplinary work between the two areas. Ultimately, “Theatre and Music” will succinctly bring greater visibility to the actual activities of the department, making the degree offerings more apparent.

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.