

Board Meeting
May 22, 2008

REORGANIZE THE AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH
PROGRAM, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, URBANA

Action: Approve the Reorganization of the African American Studies and Research Program to the Department of African American Studies, 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 reorganize the African American Studies and Research Program to the Department of African American Studies.

The African American Studies and Research Program (AASRP) began in 1969 as the Academic Committee of the Committee on Afro-American Concerns. In 1974, it became the Afro-American Studies and Research Program and in 2004 acquired its current nomenclature. The unit has established a national reputation as a leader in the transdiscipline of African American Studies and Black Studies.

In the last six years, AASRP has created 43 new courses; it has 56 primary and cross-listed courses, and 20 courses in various stages of development. Since Fall 2000, student course enrollment has grown from 296 to over 2,500. The unit consists of

18 faculty members with budgeted appointments constituting 11.25 FTE and assistant director and bibliographer. Formalizing the program as an academic department within the University will reflect the operation as an autonomous academic unit.

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.