

Board Meeting  
May 31, 2012

REORGANIZE TWO DEPARTMENTS,  
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE ARTS, CHICAGO

**Action:** Reorganize Two Departments, College of Architecture and the Arts

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Vice President, University of Illinois, and Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate, the Graduate College, and the College of Architecture and the Arts, recommends the reorganization of the existing Department of Art History and the new Department of Art as part of the new School of Art and Art History, College of Architecture and the Arts.

The College of Architecture and the Arts is proposing a reorganization of its current structure. Specifically, the existing School of Art and Design will be separated into the new School of Design; and the new Department of Art, which, with the existing Department of Art History, will comprise the new School of Art and Art History. The new School of Art and Art History will be organized with a director.

The proposed School of Art and Art History is a response to broader trends within the study and practice of the visual arts. The School of Art and Art History will unite theory, practice, and history of the visual arts into an interwoven curriculum designed to produce practitioners who have a strong knowledge of the historical and

theoretical underpinnings of their art, alongside historians and theorists who have an equally strong understanding of visual culture and the creative practice that produces significant work. On a practical level, the school can capitalize on organizational efficiencies in the achievement of its research, service, and teaching missions. Students in the school will experience a more diverse range of pedagogical methods and creative experiences within the context of the University's urban setting.

On a more visionary level, the school will foster new forms of research and pedagogy in which interdisciplinary activity and the interweaving of theory, practice, historical, and cultural context are a part of every student's learning. The research-practitioner's contribution to knowledge will manifest in the presence of the school's students and graduates in both community settings and Chicago museums. This interdisciplinarity will occur within all three areas of history, theory, and practice.

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

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