

Board Meeting
May 31, 2012

REDESIGNATE THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND MUSIC AND
ESTABLISH TWO DEPARTMENTS,
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE ARTS, CHICAGO

Action: Redesignate the Department of Theatre and Music and Establish 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 redesignation of the Department of Theatre and Music as the School of Theatre and Music, and the establishment of two departments within the School: the Department of Theatre and the Department of Music, College of Architecture and the Arts. The School will be organized with a director while the Department of Theatre and the Department of Music will each be organized with a head.

Recent curricular developments such as the addition of pre-professional programs in theatre performance, theatre design, music performance, and jazz studies are designed to make the unit more attractive to students who seek professional careers in these disciplines. It has shifted the department emphasis beyond the liberal arts setting in which it was first formed toward the conservatory-style rigors of practice more frequently

associated with the title “school.” Designation and reorganization as a school with two distinct departments will more appropriately reflect the distinct nature of the pedagogies of the disciplines, aid in recruitment, and consequently increase enrollment, as well as enable a broadening of the unit’s urban mission.

Reorganization as a school would facilitate a streamlining of governance and improvement of service to two independent artistic disciplines that are delivering pre-professional education to its majors. It will heighten the unit’s visibility and signal to the public the unique ways in which the disciplines instruct and train students, including ensemble and solo work, studio, practicum, and applied training--all of which are typically associated with professional training in the performing arts.

A Chicago campus School of Theatre and Music will be the only one of its kind in a public institution in Illinois.

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.