

Board Meeting
May 31, 2012

REDESIGNATE THE BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN PERFORMANCE,
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE ARTS, CHICAGO

Action: Redesignate the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Performance as the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Acting, 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 and the College of Architecture and the Arts recommends the redesignation of the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Performance as the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Acting, College of Architecture and the Arts.

The establishment of the Department of Theatre within the redesignated School of Theatre and Music will accompany changes being made in order to meet the goals of the reorganization. The redesignation of the B.F.A. in Theatre as the B.F.A. in Acting reflects the objectives of the new School of Theatre and Music and its curricular focus on the preparation of students for careers in theatre.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performance, in contrast to the more traditional liberal arts-focused Bachelor Arts degree, is a pre-professional conservatory-style program for students committed to an acting career, and leaves no room for a double

major or a minor. The new name for the degree, the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting, reflects more accurately the kind of training that students are receiving, focusing on the craft of acting. The word “performance” is misleading and ambiguous; it could also refer to music, dance, musical theatre, or performance art, none of which are emphasized in this program. The new title is one most frequently associated with undergraduate acting programs nationally. For purposes of marketing, recruiting, and identity in the course catalog, it is essential that students be able to recognize the true nature of the program easily.

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.