

Board Meeting  
May 31, 2012

APPROVE SEPARATING THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN THEATRE INTO TWO DEGREES, COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE ARTS, CHICAGO

**Action:** Approve Separating the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre into Two Degrees, 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 separation of the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre into two degrees: designation of the existing Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, Performance Concentration as the Bachelor of Arts in Acting; and designation of the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, Directing/Design Concentration as the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Design, College of Architecture and the Arts.

The establishment of the Department of Theater within the redesignated School of Theatre and Music will accompany changes being made in order to meet the goals of the reorganization. The separation of the two concentrations within the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre as two separate degrees 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 separation of the Performance Concentration from the Directing/Design Concentration into two separate degrees is necessitated by the different nature of the two areas of study. While the acting concentration is weighted with performance courses, the current design concentration does not emphasize performance. The Performance Concentration of the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre degree will become the Bachelor of Arts in Acting. The new name reflects the focus on acting. The Directing/Design Concentration of the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre degree will become the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Design. The new degree name reflects the emphasis on directing. Recently, the directing/design concentration results in graduation of designers and that few students complete directing degrees. In summary, the new titles are most frequently associated with undergraduate acting and theatre design programs. For purposes of marketing, recruiting, and identity in the course catalog, it is essential that descriptions are accurate.

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.