

Board Meeting  
December 2, 2011

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

**Action:** Reorganize the Asian American Studies Program, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Vice President, University of Illinois and Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to reorganize the Asian American Studies (AAS) Program as the Department of Asian American Studies.

The Asian American Studies Program began in 1997 as an interdisciplinary unit in the college. The unit has developed over the past ten years to be the largest Asian American program in the Midwest and is comparable to many established units on the West Coast, considered to be the traditional home of the discipline. The teaching capacity of Asian American Studies is strong and promotes interdisciplinarity. The AAS Program currently offers 21 course titles, grants both undergraduate and graduate minors, and plans to develop an undergraduate major. 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.