

Board Meeting
January 15, 2009

MERGE THE UNIT OF CINEMA STUDIES AND THE PROGRAM IN MEDIA STUDIES, COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, URBANA

Action: Approve the Merger of the Unit of Cinema Studies and the Program in Media Studies, College of Media and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urbana

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Media to merge the Unit of Cinema Studies and the Program in Media Studies as the Department of Media and Cinema Studies in the College of Media.

This proposal seeks to bring together the Unit of Cinema Studies currently housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with the Program in Media Studies currently housed in the College of Media. In terms of the educational character, both are and have always been strongly interdisciplinary. While the curricula and course structures and research agendas reflect different domains of scholarship, the basic interdisciplinarity between the units produces creative overlap and a common educational purpose. The merger was unanimously supported by the faculty in both units.

This merger parallels the College of Media's transition to a four-year program, now admitting students at the freshmen level. The proposed Department of Media and Cinema Studies will house a revised undergraduate major and two undergraduate minors, one in each area. In addition, the graduate minor in Cinema Studies will also be administered by the newly formed 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.