

Board Meeting  
January 21, 2016

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES,  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Asian American Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Interim Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish the Bachelor of Arts in Asian American Studies.

The Department of Asian American Studies currently offers an undergraduate minor and is the site for significant scholarly research, community, pedagogy, and outreach. The number of undergraduate minors has grown steadily over the years, and there is strong student interest in the proposed undergraduate major. A major in Asian American Studies will advance the University's mission for excellence in undergraduate education by offering students an interdisciplinary training in liberal arts. When compared with other peer institutions across the nation that offer an equivalent number of courses per term to the Department of Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, only UIUC does not offer a major. An Asian American Studies major will align the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

with its peer research institutions, enhance an already strong and renowned Asian American Studies Department, and provide undergraduates with an intellectually challenging and rigorous program of study.

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.