

Submitted by: Margaret E. Winters, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

CHANGE IN NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AFRICANA STUDIES TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

CHANGE IN NAME OF THE (MAJOR) B.A. IN AFRICANA STUDIES TO THE B.A.
(MAJOR) IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

CHANGE IN THE NAME OF THE MINOR IN AFRICANA STUDIES TO THE MINOR IN
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to change the department name, major, and minor from Africana Studies to the Department of African American Studies, the Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies, and the minor in African American Studies, respectively.

Background

This proposal is the consequence of the evolution of the discipline, the particular interests of the primary demographic population the Department serves, the demand for certain course offerings, and the expertise of departmental faculty. "Africana" is a dated nomenclature, is largely meaningless to contemporary students, and does not accurately represent the discipline or the curriculum. This change will promote the department with a title that is more readily identified by Wayne State students, will more accurately reflect the curriculum and the dominant focus of faculty research, and will provide a clearer perception of the academic discipline institutionally. The name change should also attract more students and strengthen the Department's presence both on campus and in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Approvals

The changes to the name of the department and programs (major and minor) have been approved by the faculty and chair of the Department of Africana Studies, the Faculty Council and Faculty Assembly of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs.