

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

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN LABOR STUDIES TO BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR RELATIONS

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve a change the name of the B.A. with a major in Labor Studies to the B.A with a major in Employment and Labor Relations, effective winter term 2016.

Background

The cognate fields of labor studies and industrial relations have changed dramatically over the past 30 years. The terms “labor studies” and “industrial relations” are in declining usage to identify academic programs of study in the area. Substantively, the field has grown to encompass and overlap with human resource management and employee relations.

To reflect this substantive change and to create a market identity that is both more contemporary and appealing to prospective students, a shift in the program title from “labor studies” to “employment and labor relations” is recommended. The latter term is consistent with prevailing terminology in the field. It is also the term assigned to the current Master of Arts in Employment and Labor Relations (MAELR) offered at Wayne State University, which was previously labeled the Master of Arts in Industrial Relations (MAIR).

Approvals

This proposal was approved by the faculty and director of Labor@Wayne, the Faculty Council of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Provost’s Office.