

Proposal for Department Name Change to Theatre and Film

Subject: **EPC Action Needed**

Date: Wed, 27 Apr 2011 17:59:01 -0700

From: Ray Johnson <johnsonr@pdx.edu>

To: 'Sarah E. Andrews-Collier' <andrews@pdx.edu>

CC: <sestakb@pdx.edu>

Sarah,

The EPC unanimously approved the attached proposal for a name change from Department of Theater Arts to Department of Theatre and Film.

Ray Johnson

-----Original Message-----

From: Ray Johnson [mailto:johnsonr@pdx.edu]

Sent: Sunday, April 24, 2011 8:48 PM

To: 'Barbara Brower'; 'Candyce Reynolds'; 'ChiaYin Hsu'; 'Christine Hulbe'; 'Gary Brodowicz'; 'J.R. Estes'; 'Joan Petit'; 'John Erdman'; 'Ken Selden'; 'Mark Jenkins'; 'Richard Beyler'; 'Stan Hillman'; 'Steve Harmon'; 'Tim Anderson'; 'Vicki Cotrell'

Subject: FW: EPC Action Needed

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Harmon [mailto:harmons@pdx.edu]

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:45 AM

To: Ray Johnson

Subject: EPC Action Needed

Hi Ray,

Attached is a proposal from the School of Fine and Performing Arts requesting approval for a name change for the Dept. of Theater Arts. They have requested that EPC, if at all possible, expedite the EPC's approval and subsequently submit it to the Faculty Senate for approval asap so the change can be reflected in the 2011-12 Bulletin.

If the proposal is approved by the May 2nd Faculty Senate meeting, I can make the changes to the 2011-12 Bulletin.

Steve

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Portland State University logo

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TO: Roy Koch, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ray Johnson, Chair Faculty Senate Educational Policy Committee

FROM: Barbara A. Sestak, Dean School of Fine and Performing Arts 

DATE: March 23, 2011

RE: Name Change for Department of Theater Arts

The Department of Theater Arts has requested, and I endorse, a name change to the Department of Theatre and Film. Attached are two memos from the Chair of the department requesting the name change and documenting the process that the department used to approve the change.

The department originally requested the name change several years ago when the Film Major was first approved. At that time, the film proposal promised 50 majors within five years. Since that time the program has grown so fast that the number of film majors is now over 250 at the start of the fourth year, more than half of the majors within the Department of Theater Arts. FPA added resources to the program in order to meet the student demand. The most recent of these increased resources are two additional full-time faculty positions whose PhD is in film or film studies and the remodeling of space in Lincoln Hall in summer 2011 to enlarge computer facilities for film. The National Association of Schools of Theater (NAST) accredits theater and film programs. Their most recent visit was in October 2010. During their visit they recommended that we also submit for approval the film program since to be accredited in film the program must have at least three full-time faculty who solely teach and publish in film which we will meet with our recent hires; all other requirements are already in place. Our faculty are presenting and publishing in film, most notably is Professor Mark Berrettini's recent book on Hal Hartley, (Contemporary Film Directors series). I have talked with Dean Marvin Kaiser about the intentions of FPA to change the name in May 2009 and again last summer. Most recently I discussed this issue with Interim Dean Dick Knight. One of the consistent issues raised by students was the difficulty of finding the film program; this name change will also eliminate that problem. With the strong and consistent growth of the film major, it is time to change the name of the department and I strongly endorse the proposal to change the name to the Department of Theatre and Film.



March 12, 2011

TO: Barbara Sestak, Dean
Fine and Performing Arts

FROM: Sarah Andrews-Collier, Chair
Department of Theater Arts

RE: Proposed Department Name Change
From: Department of Theater Arts
To: Department of Theatre and Film

On 21 April 2006, the Theater Arts faculty voted unanimously to change our department's name to Theatre and Film. This vote was based on strategic planning that included our proposal for the BA/BS in Film, and our plans to submit subsequently a proposal for the MA/MS in Film. This decision was based on a thorough examination of our program mission and how it should evolve in subsequent decades. Additionally, at the time of this activity, I notified Tracy Dillon, then chair of the English Department with whom we offered the Film Studies minor, that we were submitting the proposal.

Attached is a copy of our original name change proposal. Since that proposal was forwarded, the major was approved by OUS in June 2007 and listed in Fall 2007. As of this writing, we have 250 current majors and have graduated over 35 others. Several of the latter have gone on to prestigious graduate programs in production and film studies. Screening and production areas, resources, and equipment have been added to the program. Two additional tenure-related lines in film have been added to the program and are about to be filled after national searches. Demand for the program is high and we have raised admissions standards to the program as a result. In November of this year, based on our disciplinary re-accreditation site visit for Theater Arts in October, we were invited by our accreditor, National Assoc. of Schools of Theatre, to submit supplemental application materials for accreditation of our BA/BS in Film.

The faculty and students in the Film area in particular, are anxious that this change be approved. It has required an enormous effort on our part to make the Film program visible to the internal, external, and national film communities without a transparent identity, and this demand will continue to some degree indefinitely. Additionally, our students and alumni want to be able to identify with the name of his/her major.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATER ARTS
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NAME OF DEPARTMENT

Request for the following change in name of Department:

Existing name: **Department of Theater Arts**

Proposed name: **Department of Theatre and Film**

Rationale for the proposed name change:

The name change is being proposed for several reasons. They include visibility and recognition of Film within the Department, a strengthening of the Department and University by profiling the Film faculty and the Film program, reflecting what the Department really is, and drawing attention to the developments in the Film program.

1. Visibility and recognition of Film within the Department.

Film is a significant component of the Department. Key elements and contributions of Film, within the Department include

- One full-time tenured faculty member whose primary teaching and research responsibilities are in Film Studies, one full-time tenured faculty member whose teaching and research responsibilities are approximately one-half in Film, and other tenured faculty members who teach Film Studies curriculum. Four adjunct faculty members with primary teaching responsibilities and research interests in Film and Film Studies, who are responsible for approximately 6 sections of Film courses each term.
 - Student credit hour production in Film and Film Studies courses amount to between 38% and 49.3% of the Department total each term.
 - Submission of a pending proposal for a stand-alone BA/BS in Film Studies degree program in addition to the current degrees, the Minor in Film Studies and the MA/MS in Interdisciplinary Studies – Film Studies.
 - Film Studies represents a high growth area within the Department with continuing request for degree programs and special course offerings.
2. Strengthens the Department, the School of Fine & Performing Art, the University, and the Community.

*Name Change Proposal: Dept of Theatre & Film
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The proposed name change strengthens the Department, University, regional, and national communities. We believe this increased visibility will significantly increase our ability to:

- Recruit highly qualified faculty whose primary interest is in film and video to better serve the university and the community.
 - Engage faculty and students in collaborative activities such as joint projects with Portland Cable Access, the NW Film Center, and Oregon Public Broadcasting.
 - Position Film Studies as a resource in the Portland metropolitan creative community within Portland State University.
 - Recruit graduate students seeking to study film at an advanced level and support interest in the field of study and related professions.
3. Better reflects who we are and what we do.

The name change reflects existing disciplines researched and taught within the Department. Faculty in the Department implement the

- Film studies curriculum
- Minor in Film Studies
- Acting, directing, and writing for the camera curriculum
- Film production curriculum
- (Pending approval for Fall 2007 implementation) the BA/BS in Film Studies
- (Pending approval for Fall 2010 implementation) the BA/BS in Film Production

Scholarly investigations in the field vary from theoretical, to pedagogic, to applied. The existing departmental name encompasses the bulk of these activities but does not give visibility to the rapidly growing or developing Film component of what we do as articulated in 1. and 2. above.

4. Development in Film/Cinema Studies Education in the K-12 curriculum.

In recent years national theater and film studies educational associations have increased their emphasis on the importance of film and media studies and film and production for the K-12 curriculum. This has actually helped to feed a growing culture within these organizations, as well as the film studies community, for film education. The proposed name for the Department positions faculty to obtain and/or participate in regional, and national grants and projects concerned with these curricular reforms at the K-12 and university level.