

# The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

## Proposal 21-10 (Voting Units: Academic)

### **Change of Name of an Academic Program from “Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts with a Concentration in Interdisciplinary Studies” to “Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts”**

#### **Introduction**

This is a proposal to change the name of the current degree program, "Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts with a Concentration in Interdisciplinary Studies", to "Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts".

#### **Description**

The curriculum of the current degree, "Liberal Arts with a Concentration in Interdisciplinary Studies", cultivates reading, writing, and speaking skills. It affords insight into human nature through an interdisciplinary course of study drawing from the fields of philosophy, communication, scientific and technical communication, cultural studies and modern languages as well as English.

This degree has proven beneficial in advanced studies and career pursuits. Students who are better able to think critically, write well and creatively, read fluently, and communicate effectively are in increasing demand in every field. Our graduates from this program have continued to law school or graduate school in areas such as creative writing, environmental journalism, library science and rhetoric and technical communication.

#### **Rationale**

The change in the name of the degree from "Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts with a Concentration in Interdisciplinary Studies", to "Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts" will be more properly descriptive of the curriculum and education offered to undergraduates.

The current degree program was originally approved to accommodate the University's need for major programs in the Humanities. Renaming the current "Liberal Arts with a Concentration in Interdisciplinary Studies" to "Liberal Arts" will accurately reflect the true nature of that degree. Students seeking this degree take courses from a representative range of liberal arts disciplines

—philosophy, communications, modern languages, English, etc. The Bachelor's in Liberal Arts is the most appropriate name for this degree, which is a designation that has the advantage of currency in the wider academic community. This name change will help our students in representing their achievements to external audiences.

### **Timeline**

If this proposal is approved in Spring 2010, this name change will be implemented in fall 2010. Students currently in the program will be given the option to finish their current degree/concentration, or to change to the new degree.

**Introduced to Senate: 31 March 2010**

**Adopted by Senate: 14 April 2010**

**Approved by administration: 21 April 2010**