

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Proposal 2-13

(Voting Units: Academic)

Change of Name of an Established Academic Program from “Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts with a Concentration in History” to “Bachelor of Arts in History”

Introduction:

This is a proposal to change the name of the current degree program “*Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts with a Concentration in History*” to “*Bachelor of Arts in History*.”

Background and Description:

There is *no* intention of changing the curriculum with the adoption of the new name. The current name originated in the late 1960s when Humanities and Social Sciences were in a combined department. The Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts was the first degree awarded by the then new department of Humanities & Social Sciences, and quite naturally that degree was given two options: English and History. When the departments separated in the 1970s the concentration in English stayed with the Humanities department; the concentration in History migrated with the Social Sciences department. Both departments awarded their respective degree concentrations to dozens of graduates in the intervening three or more decades. Whatever commonalities may have existed have long since vanished, as both academic units independently and without consultation modified their respective concentrations to better reflect the focus of each concentration. The Social Sciences department modeled its Liberal Arts-History curriculum to reflect, as far as possible, the curriculums of History departments at other colleges and universities.

The existing BA Liberal Arts with a Concentration in History has served its purpose well. It has provided the necessary background for students going on the graduate school or pursuing a career in law, policy, planning, education, and business among others. But it is now time that the obsolete name be changed.

Rationale

The change in the name of the degree from “Liberal Arts with a Concentration in History” to simply “History” will serve three purposes. First, it will reflect more accurately the curriculum and education offered to undergraduates. Second, it will cause less confusion in attracting students to the major and in student advising. For several decades students have never really understood the current name of the program. Third, and most important, the new name will cause less confusion when students from the program seek employment or seek to enter graduate programs elsewhere. Generally, within the academic field of History a B.A. degree in History carries significantly more weight than a B.A. degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in History. The change will thus lend more credibility to our curriculum and better serve the interests of our students.

Timeline

If this proposal is approved the name change will be implemented in the following semester. Students currently in the Liberal Arts program will be given the option to finish their work under the current name or change to the new degree name.

Introduced to Senate: 10 October 2012

Approved by Senate: 24 October 2012
Approved by Administration: 01 November 2012
Approved by BOC: 14 December 2012
Approved by State: 18 January 2013