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Office of the President
December 14, 2004

Members, Board of Trustees:

CHANGE IN NAME OF AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve a change in the name of the College of Arts and Sciences' Program in American Culture to American Studies, effective in the spring 2005 semester.

Background: This change reflects the desire to move the program at the University of Kentucky into the mainstream of the field of American Studies nationally and to reflect its current theoretical framework. In part, as a response to the pressures of cold war nationalism, the American Studies movement developed in the 1940s and early 1950s as an interdisciplinary approach—conceived then as a simple marriage of history and literature—to search for the myths and symbols that defined and unified a genuine American culture. But since the 1960s, a sequence of political developments in American life—the civil rights and black power movements, second-wave feminism, post-Vietnam resettlement, Latina/o immigration, movements for gay and lesbian rights, to name only a few—has refocused scholarly attention on the multicultural character of the United States.

The proposal has been approved by the program faculty and the Arts and Sciences College Council; reviewed and recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure; and recommended by the Senate Council on behalf of the University Senate. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____