

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.05.02

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



May 10, 2004

O. Vernon Burton, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Burton:

Enclosed are copies of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to Rename the Afro-American Studies and Research Program to the African American Studies and Research Program.

This proposal has been approved by the Committee on Courses and Curricula, Academic Affairs Committee, Executive Committee and the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; it now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Marshall, Ph.D.
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: S. Cha-Jua
C. Livingstone
A. Mester

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PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL:

Proposal to rename of the Afro-American Studies & Research Program to the African American Studies & Research Program

SPONSOR:

Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua, 333.7781

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

The proposal is to change the name of the unit from "Afro-American" to "African American."

JUSTIFICATION:

The nomenclature "Afro-American" was a popular term used by descendants of Africans enslaved in the United States during the late 19th Century and again briefly during the late 1960s. However, it was never very popular. From the late 1960s to early 1990s, "Black" was the preferred national designator used by African descendants born in the U.S. Jesse Jackson led a successful campaign in the late 1980s-early 1990s to get governmental agencies, institutions, organizations, and media to adopt the name "African American." Today, few institutions, organizations, and media use the name "Afro-American." Our continued use of the name "Afro-American" suggest that we are out of date with most Black Studies units which use the terms African American or Africana.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

The budgetary implications of this proposal are minimal. The AASRP will have to change all information about the Program (sign, letterhead, envelopes, etc.), which may amount to a few hundred dollars. The proposal does not require additional staff, internal reallocations, and will not impact course enrollments and library, computer, laboratory or equipment use.

GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:

No changes to the structure of the undergraduate curriculum.

Sponsor: Sundrata Keita Clifton

Department Head: Sundrata Keita Clifton

Dean: Annunziata 5/7/04
DATE

Provost:

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

The Programs of Study Catalog should change the name of the Program from "Afro-American" to "African American."

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Spring 2005