

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**PROPOSED NAME CHANGE**  
**AFRICAN AMERICAN WORLD STUDIES PROGRAM AND DEGREE**  
**AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Consider recommending approval to the Board of the request by the University of Iowa to change the name of the African American World Studies Program to the African American Studies Program and the B.A. in African American World Studies to the B.A. in African American Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

**Executive Summary:** The name change is intended to reflect more accurately the curriculum offered to the program's undergraduate students and the research of the faculty and to assist in recruiting undergraduate students to the program. This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. There are no objections to the name change.

**Background:**

- ◆ The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has offered a B.A. in African American World Studies since 1990. Between 1990 and 2003, the program offered three "tracks" in the major – world studies; African studies; and African American studies. The first two tracks were seldom chosen by students.
- ◆ In 2003, the newly-created interdisciplinary International Studies major provided an alternate route for students interested in African Studies and Africans around the world. During that time, the world studies and the African studies tracks were eliminated in the African American World Studies program.
- ◆ In 2004-05, the College created an Advisory Committee on African American studies to advise the College on how "to achieve a visible, vital presence in African American studies to meet the needs of the University's students and faculty and to promote academic vitality and diversity on the campus."
- ◆ The Advisory Committee recommended the creation of joint appointments in African American Studies. Nine faculty members throughout the College will receive 25% appointment in African American Studies beginning in Fall 2006. A number of new hires will also participate in joint appointments.
- ◆ During the 2005-06 school year, the participating faculty redesigned the undergraduate major and minor in African American Studies and, subsequently, requested a name change to African American Studies.
- ◆ Students currently enrolled in the African American World Studies major will be able to complete the existing program and graduate with a B.A. in African American World Studies using the current curriculum if they fulfill all requirements by August 2010.
- ◆ This request does not affect the existing M.A. program in African American World Studies. Admission to that program is currently suspended and an internal review is being conducted.

Details about the name change are on file in the Board Office.