

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

SUBJECT: Separation of the Department of Communication and Visual Arts in the
UM-Flint College of Arts and Sciences

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of Separation of the Department of Communication and Visual
Arts into Two Departments, the Department of Communication Studies
and the Department of Art and Art History

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

The College of Arts and Sciences requests approval to separate the Department of Communication and Visual Arts into two independent departments, the Department of Communication Studies and the Department of Art and Art History, effective July 1, 2016.

Creating two independent departments will mean more flexibility for faculty appointments, course offerings, advising, and administrative tasks. Great care has been taken to assure that this separation will not negatively affect faculty or students currently enrolled in any of the programs offered by either area.

The proposed Department of Communication Studies will consist of approximately six tenured/tenure-track faculty and five full-time lecturers. The proposed Department of Art and Art History will consist of approximately six tenured/tenure-track faculty and two full-time lecturers. Their creation will also allow for cohesive departmental governances, and a clear sense of identities for its faculty, staff, and students. Each department will have a chair who will be responsible for providing academic, administrative, and financial leadership for the department.

After extensive discussions with faculty and careful analysis of the implications of various organizational structures, the dean and Executive Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences support the creation of the proposed independent departments needed to sustain and enhance the reputation of the University of Michigan-Flint for excellence in communication studies and art and art history and thereby request this restructure effective July 1, 2016.

RECOMMENDED BY:




Susan Gano-Phillips, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

RECOMMENDATION ENDORSED BY:



Douglas G. Knerr, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Susan E. Borrego, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

June 2016