



**FOR APPROVAL**

**PUBLIC**

**OPEN SESSION**

**TO:** Academic Board

**SPONSOR:** Cheryl Regehr, Vice-President & Provost  
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**PRESENTER:** As above  
**CONTACT INFO:**

**DATE:** March 12, 2015 for March 19, 2015

**AGENDA ITEM:** 6

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Change in the name of the *Department of Art*, to *Department of the History of Art*, Faculty of Arts and Science

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Name changes in academic divisions (excluding namings) are considered by the Academic Board and confirmed by the Executive Committee. (*AB Terms of Reference, Section 5.2.7*)

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

1. **Academic Board [for approval] March 19, 2015**
2. Executive Committee of Governing Council [for confirmation] March 24, 2015

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

On June 17, 2013 Executive Committee of Governing Council confirmed the transfer of the Honours Bachelor of Arts Specialist, Major and Minor programs in Visual Studies and the Master of Visual Studies Programs from the Faculty of Arts and Science to the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, effective July 1, 2013.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The Faculty of Arts and Science is proposing a change of the name of its *Department of Art* to the *Department of the History of Art*, effective immediately upon final university governance approval. The name of the tri-campus Graduate Department of Art will not change. The Faculty of Arts and Science Department of Art offers an undergraduate History of Arts B.A. (Specialist, Major and Minor). The tri-campus Graduate Department of Art offers an M.A. and Ph.D. in the History of Art.

Given the transfer of the Visual Studies programs in 2013, the change in name is seen by the proponents as better reflecting the research and teaching conducted within the unit and will be helpful when recruiting potential students and faculty.

This proposal was subject to extensive consultation with all three campuses as detailed in the proposal.

The proposal was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Science Faculty Council on 9 March, 2015.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Any financial resources required to implement the name change will be absorbed within the normal annual Faculty budget allocation for promotional and communications projects and materials and office supplies. The name change will be incorporated in external communications in the normal course of updating such materials.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Be It Resolved:

THAT, subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee

THAT the name of the *Department of Art* be changed to *Department of the History of Art* effective immediately upon approval.

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**DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

Proposal



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

## **Proposal to change the Faculty of Arts & Science Department of Art to the *Department of the History of Art***

The Department of Art proposes to change its name to the “Department of the History of Art” in order to better reflect the research and teaching conducted within the unit. The Department currently offers an undergraduate History of Art BA (Specialist, Major, and Minor). No changes are proposed for the names of the programs. The tri-campus “Graduate Department of Art” offers an MA and PhD in the History of Art. The graduate department that will retain the name “Graduate Department of Art”.

The change in name is highly supported by the Department on the grounds that the studio contingent, Visual Studies, has been transferred to the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. The present name, “Art,” signals to a great many people the *making* of art rather than the *history* of art and has caused numerous misunderstandings. The Department regularly receives requests from potential graduate students and interested faculty who assume that they are corresponding with a studio program. Departmental members consider that the name change would increase the ability of the Department to recruit students and faculty.

The Department of Art was founded in 1938 as the Department of Fine Arts. During this period, the Department has changed its name only once; in 2006 it was decided to rechristen the department as the Department of Art, reflecting its two divisions at that time: History of Art and Visual Studies (studio practice). The departure of the studio program, however, makes this further name change a high priority.

Faculty members cover a wide range of western and non-western fields; the Department is now particularly strong in the history of Asian art and in the art of early modern Europe. The name “History of Art” better describes the research that is undertaken in the Department and agrees with the names of similar departments in the leading universities of Canada and the United States.

Members of the Department discussed the proposed name change at length in a faculty meeting held on October 8, 2013. All faculty members of the Department were in favor of changing our name from the “Department of Art” for the reasons mentioned above. There was some debate as to whether the new name should be “Department of the History of Art” or “Department of Art History.” The St. George faculty voted nine to four in favor of “History of Art” as opposed to “Art History” for a number of reasons: It was felt by the majority that “history” needed to be emphasized. This emphasis reflected both the need to effectively distance the Department from the current name of “Art” with its strong studio connotations and the fact that the great majority of the faculty are engaged in various sorts of historical inquiry. All faculty members of the St. George Department of Art were polled, and all responded. There was not a great deal of commitment to the proposal ‘Art History’ by the four who so voted; all were content with the majority choice of ‘History of Art’. No one wished to keep the present name ‘Art’.

Undergraduate students were consulted as part of the process. The co-presidents of the undergraduate art history association (HASA) reported that the undergraduates unanimously supported the name. They noted that the name of the department would then be the same as the name of the undergraduate program, 'History of Art', and likewise cause much less confusion.

Any financial resources required to implement the name change will be absorbed within the Department. The name change will be incorporated in external communications in the normal course of updating such materials. The name change is proposed to be effective pending university governance approval.

The Department held a meeting to discuss October 14, 2014 the proposed name change with colleagues at UTM and UTSC—including the chair of the UTM Department of Visual Studies and the UTSC Department of Arts, Culture, and Media. The Deans of at UTM and UTSC are also in agreement with the proposal. While there was near universal support for the change to the name of the department on the St. George campus, student and faculty opinions regarding the name of the tri-campus graduate department varied, reflecting the nature of tri-campus graduate activities. As a result it was agreed that no changes would be made to the name of the tri-campus Graduate Department of Art at this time.

The proposal was approved by Faculty of Arts & Science Council on March 9, 2015.