



# University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Academic Board

SPONSOR: Vivek Goel

CONTACT INFO: (416) 978-2122, provost@utoronto.ca

DATE: December 11, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 16

## ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Faculty of Arts and Science: Name changes of the Department of Fine Art and Graduate Department of the History of Art to the "Department of Art" and "Graduate Department of Art" respectively.

## JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Board has authority to approve name changes of academic units.

## PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

## HIGHLIGHTS:

The proposal was developed in broad consultation with members of the Department of Fine Art, as described in the memo from the Chair of the Department. The proposal was also distributed to Principals and Deans within the University and there were no objections to the proposal from the academic divisions.

The Faculty of Arts and Science Council approved the proposed name changes on December 4, 2006.

## FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the name change.

## RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Academic Board approve:

THAT the name of the Faculty of Arts and Science Department of Fine Art and Graduate Department of the History of Art become the "Department of Art" and "Graduate Department of Art" respectively, effective immediately.

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Department of Fine Art • Graduate Department of History of Art  
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Office of the Chair

OCT 30 2006

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October 30, 2006

Professor Pekka Sinervo  
Dean, Arts and Science  
Sidney Smith Hall  
University of Toronto

Dear Pekka:

I am writing to report on a name-change recommended by the faculty at the Department of Fine Art, and the Graduate Department of the History of Art. For some years there has been a strong feeling that the Department's names did not accurately convey the range of research and instruction undertaken by the unit. The problem is two fold: at the St. George level, the phrase "Fine Art" is quaint, and does not give a sense of the broader range of media and fields encompassed today by the history of art and by studio art.

The name "Graduate Department of the History of Art" is still more inadequate. The Department now awards a graduate degree in studio art (Visual Studies). By no means can that activity meaningfully be described as the history of art. A name change at the graduate level, encompassing both the history of art and art practice, would more accurately reflect the range of teaching and instruction undertaken at the graduate level.

I should briefly describe the process by which the Department arrived at a recommendation for a name change. Over the course of the Spring and Summer, the Department engaged in a series of discussions, including the circulation of possible names on its list-serve, and an open faculty meeting where views were exchange but no vote was taken. At all times, the exchange process was designed to open and collegial, with views sought from all continuing instructors who participate in the Department's teaching and research programs. The process concluded with a confidential vote, tallied by the two associate chairs and myself.

The St. George unit voted in favor of **The Department of Art**. 22 members of the Department of Fine Art were asked for their recommendation. The Department of Art received 14 votes. Department of Art and Art History received 4 votes. (Some faculty took no position).

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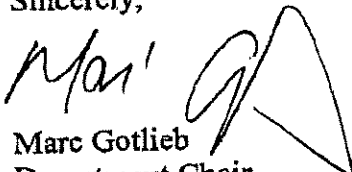
October 30, 2006

The Graduate faculty voted in favor of **The Graduate Department of Art**. 31 members of the graduate faculty were asked for their recommendation. The Graduate Department of Art received 16 votes. Graduate Department of Art and Art History received 5 votes (some faculty took no position).

At the level of full-time, tenure-stream faculty the same percentages roughly hold, with an even stronger consensus around The Department of Art. This name, the majority believes, well-conveys both the unique structure of the Department and its brand. It eliminates confusion between the studio and art history fields, specifically by invoking a single, lasting term that embraces both.

At this juncture, I would be grateful if the Faculty could initiate the process of name change for the St. George unit. I have also written to Dean Pfeiffer regarding a request to change the name of the Graduate unit—I'm frankly uncertain as to the process, but I am happy to assist both you and Dean Pfeiffer with whatever assistance you might require.

Sincerely,

  
Marc Gotlieb  
Department Chair

MG:rw

cc: Dean Susan Pfeiffer - SGS