

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
The Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

Minutes

240 SH

February 6, 2025

Attending: Asha Bhandary, Megan Gogerty, Liz Lundberg (staff), Julianna Pacheco, Sanvesh Srivastava, DeAndre Steger, Amy Strathman

Absent: Cornelia Lang (chair), Rodica Curtu, Anita Jung, Emilie Maurel-Destruel, Rachel Young

1. First the committee reviewed and approved the minutes from January 30, 2025. All approved minutes can be found [here](#).
2. Next, the committee welcomed Brenda Longfellow (Division Head, Art History, SAAHD) and Downing Thomas (Interim Director, SAAHD) to present a proposal for a new subprogram in the Art History BA program.

The idea for the new subprogram, “Art, Museums, and Museology,” came about two years ago, when the Museum Studies certificate was under review. Although the certificate is interdisciplinary and open to students in any undergraduate major, there has been a sense among some students that the certificate is for students in the natural and social sciences, not for students in fine arts programs. There has been interest among some faculty in finding ways to counter that perception and expand the presence of the Museum Studies certificate on campus. Developing a complementary subprogram within the Art History major made sense as a way to work toward those goals while also providing Art History students with an additional skillset and area of expertise they want.

The committee asked questions about the overlap between the new subprogram and the certificate and whether the possible redundancy was a cause for any concern. Professor Longfellow explained that the overlap between the two programs is intentional and expected to benefit both programs. Art History has consulted with the Museum Studies Certificate Advisory Committee about this plan, and both groups of faculty agree that some students who start with one of the museum studies programs may find their way to the other as well and ultimately complete both. Having the subprogram in Art History will also provide a path for students to complete honors theses on museum studies topics as well as a structure and incentive for Art History faculty to regularly teach courses for the Museum Studies certificate. Furthermore, the new subprogram will create opportunities for closer ties between the School of Art, Art History, and Design and the Stanley Museum of Art.

The committee discussed the existing subprograms in Art History and what draws students to each one. SAAHD faculty are not concerned about the possibility that the new subprogram could result in less interest in the existing subprograms, because even if that were to happen, the requirements for the major are such that the School would still be able to offer the courses needed for all three tracks. The committee also discussed the fact that the new subprogram communicates career pathways in its name. Art History has always had students planning to pursue careers in museums, galleries, and auction houses. This

new track will make clear to more students that they can pursue these kinds of careers with this degree. The committee was supportive of the proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Asha Bhandary
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