

## VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

### A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

#### Establishment of the Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Certificate Program in the Department of Comparative Literature

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the Department of Comparative Literature, in the College of Arts and Sciences, to offer the Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Certificate Program, effective immediately. The certificate program will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled in the 2013-2014 academic year. At such time that continuing status is granted, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

#### BACKGROUND

In January 2009, the Graduate School received the proposal from a Steering Committee of graduate faculty from the Department of Comparative Literature and related academic units requesting authority to offer the Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Certificate Program. Implementation of the program is scheduled for Autumn Quarter 2009 with an initial enrollment of ten graduate students, and will sustain 35 students by its fifth year of operation.

The graduate certificate program in Cinema and Media Studies will focus on the study of film and related media from a humanistic perspective, within the broader context of global culture. The program is designed to be: strongly interdisciplinary, drawing on faculty in related academic units where interest in the study of film and related media forms is emerging and flourishing; international in its range of focus, allowing for the comparative study of diverse national cinemas, media cultures, institutions and practices within a global framework; and innovative in its teaching and research methods.

Evidence of the demand for a graduate level program in Cinema and Media Studies includes: 1) the presence of prominent scholars and activities at the University of Washington, 2) a thriving undergraduate program that involves graduate students in teaching assistantships related to a discipline they are currently unable to study in an organized fashion, 3) the high number of graduate students currently in Slavic Languages and Literature, Scandinavian Studies, Germanics, Asian Languages and Literature, the Department of English, and Comparative Literature with strong research interests in film and media studies, 4) the significant number of doctoral students that have devoted their dissertations

primarily to film and media or have included a component of their dissertations and at least one of the topics on their doctoral area exams to cinema and media studies.

The Graduate School Council met on June 4, 2009, to discuss the Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Certificate Program proposal. The Council recommended unanimously that the proposal be forwarded to the Board of Regents for final approval, contingent on revisions to the proposal to ensure that students would have clear expectations of the program requirements. The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School concurred with this recommendation.

Establishment of the Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Certificate Program in the Department of Comparative Literature, continued

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences have reviewed and approved the recommendation. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will be informed of the Board of Regents' action on the Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Certificate Program.