

## Brothers, Sheila C

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**From:** Farrell III, Herman D  
**Sent:** Monday, April 23, 2012 12:20 PM  
**To:** Brothers, Sheila C  
**Cc:** Debski, Elizabeth A; Ederington, Josh; Effgen, Susan K; Geddes, James; Jasper, Samuel J; Kilgore, Michael W; Larson, Susan; Lee, Brian D; Swanson, Hollie; Withers, Benjamin C  
**Subject:** RE: New Cmte Item (SAOSC)\_Proposal to Change Name of Department of Art

Dear Sheila:

The SAOSC convened this morning and voted 5-0 (with one abstention) to endorse the proposal of the change of name and educational unit classification of the Department of Art to the School of Art and Visual Studies. Michael Kilgore, a member of the SAOSC, acted as facilitator of this proposal.

Thank you.

Herman Farrell, Chair, SAOSC

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**From:** Brothers, Sheila C  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 4:46 PM  
**To:** Farrell III, Herman D  
**Cc:** Debski, Elizabeth A; Ederington, Josh; Effgen, Susan K; Geddes, James; Jasper, Samuel J; Kilgore, Michael W; Larson, Susan; Lee, Brian D; Swanson, Hollie; Withers, Benjamin C  
**Subject:** New Cmte Item (SAOSC)\_Proposal to Change Name of Department of Art

Good afternoon, Herman. There is a new item ready for review by the Senate's Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC), that of a change to the name of the Department of Art in the College of Fine Arts. The proposal is attached here and can also be found at [http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/committees\\_councils/standing\\_committees/academic\\_organization\\_structure.htm](http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/committees_councils/standing_committees/academic_organization_structure.htm).

Ben Withers is your contact for this proposal.

This is tentatively scheduled to be reviewed by the Senate Council on April 16, and by the Senate on Monday, May 7. Therefore, I'll need the determination of your committee no later than Tuesday, April 10. If this proposal requires a longer review period, please let me know and I will adjust the agenda scheduling.

If you have any questions or requests, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Thank you,  
Sheila

*Sheila Brothers*  
Staff Representative to the Board of Trustees  
*Office of the Senate Council*  
203E Main Building, -0032  
Phone (859) 257-5872  
<http://www.uky.edu/faculty/senate>



Department of Art

207 Fine Arts Building  
Lexington, KY 40506-0022

859 257-8151  
*fax* 859 257-3042

[www.uky.edu](http://www.uky.edu)

February 23, 2012

Dean Michael Tick  
College of Fine Arts  
University of Kentucky  
201 Fine Arts

Dear Dean Tick:

Faculty members in the Department of Art voted unanimously on January 13, 2012 to change the name of our academic unit to the **School of Art and Visual Studies**. I provide with this letter a formal proposal that outlines the rationale of the faculty's decision and discussion of the academic and non-academic merits of the proposed name change. We ask that you consider our proposal and request your assistance in obtaining official recognition of the name change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Withers". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Benjamin C. Withers  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Art

see  
blue.

Proposal to Change the Name  
of  
The Department of Art  
to  
The School of Art and Visual Studies

**Rationale:**

Formed and named in 1918, The Department of Art's mission has long been centered on the academic instruction in the skills of art production and on providing cultural programming for the campus and surrounding community. From the perspective of the faculty, the words "department" and the sole emphasis on "art" no longer adequately describe the mission, scope, and goals of our academic unit. The diversity, size, and the continued potential for growth in the visual arts programs at University of Kentucky are better represented by the name **School of Art and Visual Studies (SAVS)**. The merits of the change of name are explained through a discussion of academic and non-academic considerations, below:

**Academic merits:**

The Department of Art currently houses seven different undergraduate and graduate degrees in fields as varied as professional teacher-training (BA and MA in Art Education), pre-professional and professional studio practice (BFA and MFA in Art Studio) and traditional liberal arts (BA in Art Studio and BA and MA in Art History). The array of curricular programs offered by the Department presents a significant expansion from the single BA in Art offered at its founding in 1918. The growth in areas of specialization, over time, has been steady but sure with BA in Art Education added in 1958, the MFA in 1970, and the BFA in 1978. The number of Art majors substantially increased in the late 1990's and early 2000's and recently, the Department has greatly expanded both the number of non-major students it serves and its curricular offerings via courses designed for the Creativity requirements of the UK Core. These various periods of growth have resulted in an academic unit which combines a focus on traditional media and scholarly approaches with contemporary disciplines such as digital media, performance art, and visual studies.

In terms of size, the Department of Art has grown from 21 FT faculty to 33 FT faculty in the last eight years, and supports the largest undergraduate population in the College of Fine Arts. On the graduate level, Art offers the only terminal graduate degree in Art Studio (the MFA) and the only MA in Art Education in the Commonwealth. A major component of the Department's mission includes outreach and community engagements, manifested in an active visiting artist program, exhibitions organized by the Tuska Center for Contemporary Art, student exhibitions in the Barnhart Gallery, and many community partnerships with regional arts organizations.

Looking at UK's benchmark institutions, we find that the overwhelming majority of our peers do not use the term "department" to describe programs of our size and scope. In nine of the nineteen benchmarks, our programmatic areas are actually organized as

separate departments, separating Art History from Art Studio (which often includes an art education component). Eight benchmark universities house Art History, Art Studio, and Art Education within one educational unit; of these, six identify this unit as a “School” (the remaining benchmark institution does not list an art education degree on its website).

Looking internally, we note that UK’s Academic Regulations (ARs) do not offer clear distinction between a “school” and a “department.” Indeed, the relevant AR treats the two quite similarly, if not identically, in terms of the organization, responsibilities, and obligations of their constituent faculties and administrators. In practice, however, the variety of academic programming (professional and liberal arts degrees, commitment to outreach, and visibility) that is housed in the Department of Art is matched by few academic units at UK. The University labels those units that are similar in diversity and scope “schools,” for example the CFA’s own School of Music which, in parallel to Art, offers graduate and undergraduate degrees in education, liberal arts, and performance practices. We notice as well that other units on this campus that include “school” in their titles (see list appended to this document) appear to focus on professional preparation, community engagement, and visibility as part of what distinguishes their mission and goals.

The name that we have chosen, **School of Art and Visual Studies**, better reflects the practices and academic goals of the disciplines we house. While our teaching and scholarship continue to develop and explore the aesthetic and expressive dimensions of visual production (production for the global art market, traditional craft, interpretation of the “great works” of the past), it is understood that the practice of production and interpretation in the visual realm extend far beyond the tradition field of “art”. The tools and insights we seek to develop have broader applications as practical tools (graphic design, for example) and cultural and historical exploration (the existence of distinct visual cultures in historically different societies and/or the use of the visual to communicate messages beyond the elite echelons, that is the “fine art,” of a given culture). This is manifested in recent changes in the academic curriculum of the Department of Art, namely the addition of tracks in Museum Studies and Visual Studies in Art History as well as the changing emphasis in ways of teaching and conducting research in Art Studio.

On a broader scale, the newly formed School of Art and Visual Studies will provide a central point for the growth of interdisciplinary studies related to the visual at the University of Kentucky. Our faculty are currently working with colleagues in other colleges at UK to develop a Center for Visual Studies. This Center will provide a central gathering point for the various faculty whose research and teaching examine the importance of the visual in many different disciplines. Our faculty are also exploring the creation of a doctoral program in Visual Studies that would bring together and utilize the expertise already on our campus.

### **Non-Academic Merits**

The formation of SAVS will not immediately impact the resources needed to run the academic unit. We will be seeking funding for a new position of Associate Director, with

appropriate compensation and teaching reduction of one course per semester. The position of Associate Director will be given responsibilities for internal administrative matters (scheduling of classes, program assessment, student advising, and the like). The Director's duties will be oriented toward external relations, development, fundraising, and capital improvements. In this, the administrative structure of the new school is modeled after that in the School of Music.

**Procedure:**

This issue has been discussed by the faculty of each of the three areas and by the entire faculty in two separate Departmental meetings. On January 13, 2012 the motion was brought before the entire full-time faculty according to our Departmental by-laws and passed unanimously. Complete minutes of these minutes are available upon request.

**Comparison with the 19 UK Benchmarks:**

Nine institutions separate art history and art studio/art education into "departments":  
University Michigan, Texas A&M, University of Maryland at College Park, University of Minnesota, UW-Madison, North Carolina State, Ohio State University, Penn State University, UCLA

Six institutions combine art history, art studio, and art education into a "school":  
University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Illinois, University of Iowa, University of Arizona, University of Washington

Two institutions with a single "department" that combine art history, art studio, and art education: Purdue, Michigan State

Institution with a Department of Art History and Art Studio:  
University of Virginia (no art education)

**Schools at the University of Kentucky**

School of Music (College of Fine Arts)

School of Journalism and Telecommunications (College of Communication and Information Studies)

School of Library and Information Sciences (College of Communication and Information Studies)

Patterson School of Diplomacy (Graduate School)

Martin School of Public Policy (Graduate School)

School of Architecture (College of Design)

School of Interior Design (College of Design)

School of Human Environmental Sciences (College of Agriculture)