






November 14, 2013

Memo to: Timothy Boosinger
Provost and Vice-President for Academic affairs

Through: Constance Relihan
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies 

Through: Joseph Aistrup
Dean, College of Liberal Arts 

From: Gary Wagoner 
Chair, Department of Art

Subject: Item for the Board of Trustees- Renaming of the Department of Art to
Department of Art and Art History

We request consideration of this request for renaming the Department of Art at the February meeting of the Board of Trustees

Proposal: The College of Liberal Arts proposes to rename its Department of Art to the Department of Art and Art History.

Justification:

While Art history has long been an essential and valued component of the art program at Auburn, for many years it was considered a secondary component of the program, in service to our studio art degree offerings. This is no longer the case, with art history at Auburn having grown significantly in scope and quality of offerings. The Department of Art has since 2008 offered a BA in Art History, which our accreditor, the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, has approved, and which presently enrolls 26 majors. We wish to change the name of our academic department to the Department of Art and Art History to reflect these developments in our program. We expect that doing so will increase visibility of our art history offerings within the university and beyond, and will contribute to our recruitment of superior students with particular interest in the study of art history.

Art faculty have unanimously voted support of this new departmental name. No new resources will be required to effect the change. No new duplication of courses of study is involved. This designation is a quite common one nationally and regionally in programs where the art history degree option exists. Departments at the University of Alabama, the University of Florida, the University of Texas, the University of Alabama Birmingham, and the University of Alabama Huntsville, among a great many others, are so named.