

May 24, 2016

TO: Andre Knoesen, Chair
Davis Division of the Academic Senate

FR: Brenda Schildgen, Chair
Faculty Executive Committee
College of Letters and Science

RE: Departmental Status Request

The faculty of the Program in Cinema and Digital Media have proposed disestablishing the present program and reconstituting it as an academic department. In accordance with the provisions of PPM 200-20, the proposal has been reviewed by Interim Dean Susan Kaiser, Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, who has expressed strong support for the proposed action.

After careful review, the College of Letters and Science Faculty Executive Committee recommended approval of the proposal to confer departmental status on the Program in Cinema and Digital Media at its meeting on April 4, 2016. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I am now hereby forwarding the proposal to you for review and action by the Davis Division.

cc: B. Floyd, Director
Undergraduate Education and Advising
College of Letters and Science

Michael Neff, Co-Director, Cinema
and Digital Media

Kris Ravetto-Biagioli, Co-Director
Cinema and Digital Media

May 20, 2016

Brenda Schildgen
Chair of the Faculty Executive Committee

Andre Knoesen
Chair of the Academic Senate

Dear Brenda and Andre,

I am pleased to write in support of departmental status for Cinema and Digital Media (CDM). Since the Technocultural Studies and Film Studies programs were integrated into one unit, and the respective majors were combined into one CDM major, the interdisciplinary strength and breadth of the new unit and new major have expanded into a cohesive whole – one that is greater than the sum of its parts. The new unit and major are poised to provide intellectual leadership in the emerging, interdependent, and highly dynamic fields of visual and digital media. Encompassing film studies, critical gaming studies, animation design, and electronic music, CDM blends theory and practice, and highlights the shifting interplay across media.

The CDM faculty has grown to 12 members (beyond the limit of 10 for Program Committees), and enrollment is very healthy and is expected to grow beyond 200 majors within the coming few years. The campus and HARCS have made significant investments in CDM, in the form of outstanding HIP hires in Digital Humanities, a successful TOE hire (Professor Tim Lenoir), and the planned remodeling of Cruess Hall to provide facilities for maker studios as well as film viewing. We continue to seek ways of providing contiguous office space for the CDM faculty and to address equipment needs.

Now is the time to recognize the existing and emerging strengths in CDM by conferring departmental status. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance in this process.

Cordially,



Susan B. Kaiser
Interim Dean
Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies
Professor
Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

Proposal for the Establishment of Departmental Status for the Program in Cinema and Digital Media

Summary:

This proposal requests a change of the name of the existing academic unit the “Program for Cinema and Digital Media” to the “Department for Cinema and Digital Media”.

Submitted on:

March 5, 2016

In Accordance with Policy and Procedure Manual: Chapter 200, Campus Organization and Management, Section 20, Establishment or Revision of Academic Units

Submitted to:

Dean Susan Kaiser
Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, College of Letters and Science

Professor Steve Carlip
Chair, The College of Letters and Science Executive Committee

Departmental Contacts:

Michael Neff, Co-Director
mpneff@ucdavis.edu

Kriss Ravetto, Co-Director
ravetto@ucdavis.edu

Karen Nofziger, CAO
knofziger@ucdavis.edu

1 JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

1.1 A STATEMENT OF THE RESULTING UNIT'S OBJECTIVES;

The Program for Cinema and Digital Media (CDM) is the continuation of two previous programs, Film Studies (began as a minor in 2000 and interdisciplinary program in 2002) and Technocultural Studies (founding director assumed duties in Jan. 2002), that officially merged in March 2011 with the goal of establishing a shared major. The merger reflected the both overlapping and complementary interests of the two programs in visual and digital media and offered a more cohesive program for UC Davis students. For example, the study of film had been spread across both programs, although largely concentrated in Film Studies, whereas film and video production was only offered in Technocultural Studies. The new major of Cinema and Digital Media replaced the old majors of Film Studies and Technocultural Studies and offers students a more comprehensive and coherent course of study. The newly titled "Department of Cinema and Digital Media" will continue to support the major in Cinema and Digital Media, along with the majors in Technocultural Studies and Film Studies until they are officially closed.

Department Overview:

Cinema and Digital Media promotes collaborative work on film, media arts, and digital humanities. Film and digital media studies provide us with the historical and theoretical grounding of the curriculum, while film (social issue documentary, narrative and television), video games, animation and electronic music contribute to its practice and contemporary critical orientation. As we are dealing with emerging opportunities and scenarios rather than well-defined problems, our program's goals are designed to be adaptive to media and technological innovations. We are committed to bridging critical thinking across media and cultural contexts with practice.

With the consolidation of Film and Technocultural Studies, we took the opportunity to rethink the relation of the digital and electronic arts to the history of sound recording, electronic communications, and the cinematic and photographic image. Our new single major proposes that we contemplate how technology has shaped and continues to shape communications, artistic practice, and audience engagement with them. The major is designed to address both the recent history of emerging technologies and the social and political impact of those technologies. What makes this program unique to the Davis campus is that it integrates, at a foundational level, historical studies and formal analysis with practical learning, offering students a practice-by-research approach to media, technology, and the arts. The curriculum is designed to provide students with a robust grounding in historical, technological, and aesthetic knowledge. Cinema and Digital Media is a profoundly interdisciplinary field, drawing from the traditions of communications, art, computer science, theatre, history, critical theory, and cultural studies.

The program combines production-practice-programming and history-theory-cultural studies. We see both of these areas as integral to educating and training students in modes of production (including basic understanding of computer programming and code, as well as the institutional/industrial and

financial aspects of media production) as well as in historical, political and theoretical contexts and analysis of artistic creation and audience experience.

Justification for Department Status:

Cinema and Digital Media is a robust and growing major within HARCS. FMS and TCS were popular majors, often with some 100+ and 50+ majors respectively. We anticipate CDM will attract increased students both because it is more legible to those interested in the areas it covers and because of the expanded and better integrated curriculum. By addressing the impact of technology on culture and cultural production, the major is particularly timely, addressing one of the dominant trends in current society. The move to departmental status will help reflect UC Davis' on-going commitment to this important field.

Department status confers a great sense of permanence and status on the program. We feel this will be useful in attracting both students and faculty. As a program expected to grow, the ability to recruit effectively is paramount.

From a pragmatic perspective, CDM has exceeded the normal constraints of the Program Committee governance structure. Due to several hires last year, we currently have eleven faculty members with appointments to the program, and a twelfth that will officially join at the end of March. As program committees are normally capped at ten, we had to seek an exception in order to include all the faculty members on the PC and thus provide them a voice in governance. Department status provides CDM with an appropriate sense of autonomy and allows all appointed faculty to participate in governance.

Moving to department status will provide direct representation on the Academic Senate. The faculty are anxious to assume their responsibilities at that level.

1.2 ANALYSIS OF COSTS AND BENEFITS TO THE CAMPUS AND EXPECTED BUDGETARY IMPACT

The costs should be minimal as no changes to faculty are associated with this change in title. Staffing for the Program in Cinema & Digital Media is handled by The Arts Administrative Group, and we do not expect any change in levels of staffing to accommodate the department status. In terms of benefits, conferring department status reflects the campus's long term commitment to having a presence and voice in the field of Cinema and Digital Media. Given the immense social interest and large economic impact of these fields to the state, this reflects positively on UC Davis by showing a commitment to an area of importance to the state.

1.3 AN OUTLINE OF CHANGES IN INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

There are no significant anticipated changes to the instructional program. The newly named Department of Cinema and Digital Media will continue to support the Major in Cinema and Digital Media. It will also support the Majors in Film Studies and Technocultural Studies until they are officially closed. The unit will continue to be supported by the Arts Administrative Group and the Dean of the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies

1.4 A STATEMENT ABOUT THE EXPECTED IMPACT TO ENROLLMENT

The major in Cinema and Digital Media is already expected to grow based on robust student interest and the size of related programs at other UC campuses that are generally larger. For example, UCSB has over 400 undergrads in its Film Studies program. UCLA only has a production undergrad major. It is impacted, and they have about 136 students. SF State has 194 students. USC has 380. UC Irvine has over 300 majors. UCB has approximately 120 majors. We see department status as a useful attractant in helping CDM in achieving its growth plans.

1.5 CHANGES IN STAFFING AND SPACE REQUIREMENTS.

Changes to staffing and space are occurring in parallel to this application and are not contingent on it. Rather, they reflect the growth in the program and a historical lack of resources. CDM is midway through renovations to the Art Annex to create a building better suited for our needs. Plans include a new space for electronic music (complete), a renovated space for electronics (underway), improvements to a flexible space for teaching and media work (underway) and a new building entrance to improve traffic flow (spring 2016). In addition, plans are being developed to provide CDM with additional space in Cruess Hall. These include construction of large (~250 seat) and small (~120 seat) screening rooms, two media labs that will support teaching and research, along with seminar and exhibition space. The PAC has been formed and programmatic planning has commenced with the renovations being anticipated for completion by spring of 2018. These new spaces may also require additional staffing, but this is independent of the title change.

As with many programs, CDM expects continued space and staff needs going forward, especially given anticipated growth. Most pressing are the needs for co-location of faculty offices and a new hire in narrative film production to back fill for a recent retirement. These needs exist whether or not department status is granted. If anything, department status provides a more solid ground to argue for continued investment.

2 A PHASE-OUT PLAN THAT INCLUDES AN EXPLICIT DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCOMMODATIONS TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND NON-ACADEMIC APPOINTEES.

Not applicable. The newly named department will continue to support the same majors as the former program with the same support through The Arts Administrative Group. Nothing will be phased-out.

3 A COMPLETE STATEMENT OF ALL STEPS REQUIRED FOR ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL AND THE TIMETABLE OF TARGET DATES FOR COMPLETION OF EACH STEP

The operation of the department will continue as the program currently operates, with the exception that the departmental faculty will replace the current program committee as the governing body. We hope approval can be obtained before the end of the academic year. The steps are outlined below.

- Review of proposal by CDM faculty (Completed and approved Feb. 2016)
- Submission of this proposal to the Dean of HArCS and L&S Executive Committee
- Review by the Dean, followed by consideration by the L&S Executive Committee
- Review by the Academic Senate
- Administrative Approval

4 EXPLANATION OF THE METHOD OF CONSULTATION THAT WAS EMPLOYED IN THE REVIEW PROCESS WITH STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS FROM POTENTIALLY AFFECTED UNITS AND WITH APPROPRIATE COLLEGE OR SENATE COMMITTEES.

We sought comment on our plans from the following related departments and programs: Art Studio, Art History, Music, Design, Theatre & Dance, English, Science & Technology Studies, American Studies and Computer Science. Letters of support are attached at the end of this proposal.

We sought input from undergraduate students in the CDM, TCS and FMS majors. Comments are attached.

5 DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROPOSAL TO THE CAMPUS AND UNIT'S ACADEMIC PLAN.

Cinema and Digital Media will satisfy the needs of students who wish to receive a major in the discipline as well as those students who have a general interest in media studies, electronic arts, cinema, and media production and who wish to take such courses without necessarily pursuing a CDM degree. Students are interested in Cinema and Digital Media for a variety of reasons, among them: an interest in the intersection between critical thought and practice, historical and contextual approaches to video games, electronic music, creating websites; plan to pursue careers in film and digital media (two of the

largest industries in California); interest in critical writing and analytical thinking about image, sound, and narrative; commitment to creative work in film, video and digital art making; and concern about how social media structures impact their own lives. The major in Cinema and Digital Media will provide students with a structured, intellectual context in which to pursue these interests.

The Department of Cinema and Digital Media will continue to be well woven into the division of HaRCS and the College of Letters & Sciences. Beyond the many cross-listed and cross-recognized classes, the programs in Cinema and Digital Media, Science and Technology Studies, Music, Design and Art Studio plan to work closely together as the Cinema and Digital Media major develops. Cinema and Digital Media expects to collaborate with Art Studio for a growing list of courses in film/video production, while Art Studio expects to collaborate with Cinema and Digital Media for courses that provide students with a solid grounding in the critical analysis of moving image and sound. Professors Kaplan, Milburn and Ravetto have MOUs with STS and intend to cross list courses with the newly formed Cinema and Digital Media. Music and CDM have collaborated on a shared facility for teaching electronic music. CDM and Design are exploring ways to share exhibition and maker space as part of the redesign of Cruess Hall.

CDM is also an active participant in building the Digital Humanities on campus. Three CDM faculty are participating in the ongoing, four person HIP cluster hire in Digital Humanities and two of the faculty hired to date will be housed in CDM.

6 APPENDED COMMENTS OF STUDENTS, FACULTY, ACADEMIC NON-SENATE APPOINTEES, AND COMMITTEES.

6.1 RESULTS OF STUDENT POLL

Students were polled using Survey Monkey. Twenty nine students responded to the question “Do you support the Cinema and Digital Media program becoming a department on campus?”. Twenty eight were in favor and one was opposed. There comments are included below.

Ever since my second year on this campus I was highly excited for this new program and was looking forward to major in it. I am now graduating with Film Studies, but if I would have had time I would have definately majored with CDM.

2/11/2016 1:40 PM

I see a great desire for knowledge within myself and within other students studying Cinema and Digital Media. Our program is at a size and place where becoming a department will help faculty and administrators better support and advocate for their students.

2/9/2016 6:46 PM

Because we haven't actually had an a department that is focusing on media and film, and it is something that I would like to see for the incoming students in the future (since we didn't have them). Also, in a way, it makes it a lot easier for other people to

understand what our major is about because we all know that no one really understands what Technocultural Studies is about.

2/9/2016 12:44 PM

I would like to have Cinema and Digital Media as a department because then it would be more funded. I feel like there should be more of a focus on the arts at UC Davis

2/9/2016 12:00 PM

I am a senior Film Studies major. Throughout my time here I have seen the struggle from being TCS and FMS, to CaTS, to now CDM. My education has suffered greatly from not having a department and going through so many constant changes of grade requirements and such. CDM needs to become a department on campus because it is simply unfair to pay the same amount UC Davis engineer majors do for an exponentially worse education.

2/9/2016 11:25 AM

Cinema and Digital Media/Film is a prominent field that should possess its own department, as it requires a unique and specific set of skills that do not have much crossover in the other arts.

2/9/2016 10:18 AM

The Cinema and Digital Media program should become a department on campus to better support more students and expand the program to include more and improve courses.

2/9/2016 9:26 AM

I believe in the transfer from program to department because I believe it's the best way to go.

2/9/2016 12:18 AM

If CDM becomes a department, it will boost its recognition, which can potentially improve the selection of classes.

2/8/2016 5:51 PM

Becoming an department would help students more.

2/8/2016 4:38 PM

After seeing the development of the Cinema and Digital Media program, it deserves the resources and recognition of a department. Students in the major are passionate and want the same respect as other majors.

2/8/2016 3:57 PM

The Cinema and Digital Media program has talented professors, highly motivated students, and an abundance of resources. I support of the Cinema and Digital Media program to becoming a department on campus.

2/8/2016 3:35 PM

Becoming a department will help the program gain more support and grow in its field, being one of the only cinema based programs at Davis for students. This is important for me because not many of the other majors at Davis allow the benefits that Cinema and Digital Media does, so in becoming a department, this would help students like me to be able to reach our goals.

2/8/2016 2:38 PM

More courses for undergraduate students

2/8/2016 1:31 PM

No one knows what technocultural studies is. Please make this change

2/8/2016 1:18 PM

I believe the department status of the Cinema and Digital Media program could be beneficial in a multitude of ways ranging from attracting more students to building a stronger curriculum with a steady selection of classes and potentially more faculty. In my four years here, I have seen the department shift a great deal and I think it would be positive for future students to be in a major that has the status of being recognized as a department.

2/8/2016 1:11 PM

I am a Cinema and Digital Media major, and strongly support the departmental status of my major. It is a very interesting, useful field of study that is useful for all students. It should remain on campus with the strength of departmental status.

2/8/2016 1:06 PM

I support this because it will allow more students and faculty to know more about this department rather than just a program. It will also make less confusion between the current CTS department and the CDM program.

2/8/2016 1:03 PM

I would love for CDM to become its own department! That would look a lot better for me and all other CDM majors.

2/8/2016 12:55 PM

I believe this Major program could greatly benefit from departmental status. My emphasis is in Audio and I believe with departmental status there will be more classes and equipment which will benefit my education.

2/8/2016 12:54 PM

I would like to see the Cinema and Digital Media program become a full department as it would be helpful for the students in the future.

2/8/2016 12:51 PM

I hope that CDM will stay on UC Davis so that future and current students can continue to take TCS and other classes in the field.

2/8/2016 12:42 PM

It would be very beneficial to have Cinema and Digital Media become a department on campus because the faculty would then become self-governed and the department itself would be more successful.

2/8/2016 12:42 PM

I am in support of the major name change to "Department of Cinema and Digital Media". This change will allow students to be more flexible and marketable for getting jobs after college. In today's world, digital media is a MUST for every company.

2/8/2016 12:41 PM

We student can have more resources.

2/8/2016 12:39 PM

6.2 FACULTY RESPONSES

The issue of applying for departmental status was discussed at several faculty meetings during the spring of 2015, fall of 2015 and winter of 2016. Faculty expressed consistent and unanimous support. A formal electronic vote was conducted in February 2016. Of twelve eligible faculty, nine voted and all voted in favor. Two of the eligible faculty members are currently out of the country on sabbatical and have not been participating in program votes. Faculty added the following comments to their votes:

I am very strongly in favor of this application for departmental status. We have a strong program, terrific faculty and very high student interest in this program.

Departmentalizing CDM is an important and exciting step in the development of the program and I fully support this!

Becoming a department is an important step in achieving CDM's growth potential.

Thanks for organizing and good luck!

6.3 RELATED DEPARTMENTS

We consulted with related departments about our plans, including all departments in the arts group, related programs in the humanities and computer science. No objections or concerns were raised about our plans. Several departments have offered letters of support, attached below.



DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8585
<http://design.ucdavis.edu>

January 2, 2016

Dear Members of the Academic Senate,

I am writing on behalf of the Department of Design to express our strong support for the departmental status of Cinema and Digital Media (CDM).

Digital Humanities is one of the fastest growing areas on campus. Due in large part to the Provost's Hiring Investment Program supporting this area, the CDM faculty has practically doubled in the past few years. Eleven faculty members have appointments in CDM which means that all of the faculty cannot even participate in Program governance without a special exception from the College of Letters & Science. Additionally the CDM Program has nineteen affiliated faculty. Departmental status will allow CDM to have a much deserved representative in the Academic Senate.

Now that the major has a newly defined identity (previously students chose between Film Studies or Technocultural Studies before these two programs merged) student numbers in the major will likely grow as well. With the newly formed and well funded ModLab, CDM is at the crux of the digital humanities and plays a pivotal role as an interdisciplinary collaborator across campus. Design already relies on CDM courses to help augment our curriculum as many areas complement studies in Design; there is also much collaboration between faculty members. Departmental status will not only help CDM attract future students and faculty but it will also help other departments in the Arts Group as we develop a stronger coalition. A Department of Cinema and Digital Media will enhance the Arts at UC Davis overall and strengthen our ability to serve as an international leader in the Arts. The Department of Design is greatly in favor of this transition from Program to Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan T. Avila".

Susan T. Avila
Chair, Department of Design

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
TELEPHONE: (530) 752-2257
FAX: (530) 752-5013
WEB: www.english.ucdavis.edu

ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616

February 10, 2016

Michael Neff and Kriss Ravetto
Co-Directors, Cinema and Digital Media
Division of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies

Dear Professors Neff and Ravetto:

I am writing to express the support of the English Department in your bid to move from program to department status. Because Cinema and Digital Media now has more than ten faculty members, and Letters & Sciences caps program committees at ten, moving to department status seems a necessary and logical transition. Achieving department status will also allow you to have a representative on Academic Senate and thereby participate more fully in faculty governance.

Because there are many ties between English and Cinema and Digital Media – including two faculty members with joint appointments (Colin Milburn and Stephanie Boluk) – English is invested in the welfare of your unit and we are happy to offer this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. Miller

Elizabeth C. Miller
Professor and Chair of English
ecmill@ucdavis.edu



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616
Tel. (530) 752-5537
Fax. (530) 752-0983

Henry Spiller, Chair
530-752-2603
hjspiller@ucdavis.edu

Michael Neff, Co-Director
Cinema and Digital Media
UC Davis

February 11, 2016

Dear Professor Neff,

The Department of Music is pleased to support Cinema and Digital Media's application for departmental status. The new Department of Cinema and Digital Media (CDM) will be a welcome addition to UC Davis with its attention with many forms of new media not covered by the existing arts departments. With its excellent faculty and engaged students, departmental status is more than appropriate for CDM.

Music's programs have been enhanced by collaborations with CDM (and TCS before it) in areas of sound studies, electronic music, and production. We look forward to continuing these interactions with the new department.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Spiller", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Henry Spiller
Professor and Chair

STS letter of support for CDM departmentalization

Tim Choy <tkchoy@ucdavis.edu>
To: Michael Neff <mpneff@ucdavis.edu>

Mon, Jan 18, 2016 at 11:40 AM

Dear Michael,

We, the Science and Technology Studies Program, unanimously support our colleagues in Cinema and Digital Media in their proposal to become a department.

Sincerely,

Tim Choy

--

Tim Choy
Director, Science & Technology Studies (STS)
Associate Professor, STS and Anthropology
UC Davis

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
FAX: +1 530 752 4767

KEMPER HALL OF ENGINEERING
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616

Michael Neff
Co-Director, Cinema and Digital Media

Dear Michael,

I am writing to in support of the application of Cinema and Digital Media to become a Department. As you know, CDM and Computer Science have had a cross-listed class, ECS/CTS 12, for several years now, and it has worked out very well. We also share a faculty member (you), and this has also worked out well, and we've worked together to hire more joint faculty. In general, we have had a productive relationship with CDM as a program, and we foresee it continuing with no problem if CDM becomes a Department.

Best of luck with this move,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nina Amenta".

Nina Amenta
Chair, Computer Science
University of California, Davis



ART HISTORY PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF ART and ART HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616
(530) 752-0105
FAX: (530) 752-0795
WEB: <http://arts.ucdavis.edu/art-history>

March 1, 2016

Professor Michael Neff,
Co-Chair, Cinema and Digital Media
University of California, Davis

Dear Michael,

The Program in Art History, Department of Art and Art History, is pleased to offer its support to the application of the program in Cinema and Digital Media for departmental status. The study of visual images, the core of Art History's teaching and research mission, forms a key part of the study of film and digital media, and so the move of the Cinema and Digital Media program to departmental status should benefit both programs as well as other programs in the visual arts.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn E. Roller".

Lynn E. Roller
Professor and Co-Chair, Art History
Department of Art & Art History
University of California, Davis
Tel: 530-752-7801
Email: leroller@ucdavis.edu



DEPARTMENT OF ART AND ART HISTORY

ART BUILDING, ROOM 111
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8596

Dear Dean Kaiser,

I am writing to support Cinema and Digital Media's application for departmental status on behalf of my colleagues in Art Studio. Art Studio faculty discussed implications of the change on Art Studio, and concluded that the change of the proposed status will have positive and neutral impacts on our program in the faculty meeting on February 26, 2016.

Over the last few years, Cinema and Digital Media has evolved into a program, and last year, it officially became one. Now is the right time for this interdisciplinary program to gain departmental status. The merger of Technocultural Studies and Cinema Studies laid the groundwork for collaboration with the field of Digital Media. The successful participation of these programs in a HIP proposal for Digital Humanities has enlarged the faculty of the program to include a significant presence in Digital Media, which has transformed in recent years into an innovative discipline whose focus is distinct from the practice of Art Studio. The emphasis of Cinema and Digital Media on critical and cultural discourse regarding digital media and game development is a great addition to the Arts group. Although Art Studio shares a similar interest in moving image and video art as part of our own discipline, our faculty has agreed that CDM's involvement in cinema is different, seen in a larger context of digital media and the field of virtual reality.

Art Studio faculty welcome the recent growth of Cinema and Digital Media and support their endeavor to become an equal partner as a full fledged department in HArCS.

Sincerely,

Young Suh

Young Suh
Associate Professor, Co-Chair
Department of Art and Art History
University of California, Davis
617-780-6040
yssuh@ucdavis.edu