Date: 2/17/2009
From: Yoshikuni Igarashi
To: The Committee on Educational Program
Re: A proposal to change the program title from East Asian Studies Program to the Asian Studies Program

**Justification:** The East Asian Studies Program proposes to drop “East” from its program designation in order to incorporate South Asia into Vanderbilt University’s undergraduate curriculum, thereby making it possible for students to concentrate their studies on this region. At the present moment, it is impossible to create a separate program dedicated to South Asia because the contingent of South Asian specialists is still small at Vanderbilt University. We can best serve the growing interest in the region by incorporating South Asian studies into an already existing unit, East Asian Studies. We believe that the newly expanded academic unit will have better visibility and will also increase communication among the East Asia and South Asia specialists on our campus.

**The proposed Catalog description:** The Asian Studies Program is an essential part of Vanderbilt University’s effort to diversify its curriculum. The program currently offers various courses that cover topics related to East Asia (mainly China and Japan) and South Asia (mainly India). Other Asian regions such as Korea and Southeast Asia are also covered. The affiliated faculty members promote a better understanding of Asia and its relations with the rest of the world through their research and teaching. The students who major in Asian Studies are encouraged to register for courses in multiple disciplines in order to develop an interdisciplinary perspective on Asia.

The Asian Studies Program requires 42 hours for the major.

**Program of Concentration in Asian Studies**

Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary program of concentration. Many students build their majors around their intensive language studies of Chinese or Japanese. The students who major in Asian Studies are also encouraged to register for a survey history course (History 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 116) at an early stage of their study at Vanderbilt University. Related courses available in other disciplines are listed below.

**The current Catalog section:** THE East Asian Studies Program is an important essential part of Vanderbilt University’s effort to diversify its curriculum. The program currently offers various courses that cover topic related to East Asia (mainly China and Japan) and South Asia (mainly India) in art, history, and languages. Other Asian regions such as Korea and Southeast Asia are also covered. The affiliated faculty members promote better understanding of East Asian societies regions and the international relations surrounding the region their relations with the rest of the world through their teaching as well as their research.

**Majors** The students who major in Asian Studies are encouraged to study in one or more of the programs in China and Japan described in the chapter on Special Programs for Undergraduates register for courses in multiple disciplines in order to develop an interdisciplinary perspective on Asia.
The East Asian Studies Program requires 42 hours for the major.

Program of Concentration in East Asian Studies

East Asian Studies is acceptable as an interdisciplinary program of concentration. For details, see Interdisciplinary Program of Concentration, Arts and Science. Most Many students begin build their studies with History 106, 107, or 108 surveys of the civilization of China, Korea, and Japan from ancient times to the present. These courses are normally prerequisite for further study in the field. Many students also include course in majors around their intensive language studies of Chinese or Japanese—or both—in their program of study, since language is an essential element in the serious study of both the traditional cultures and the contemporary problems of East Asia. The students who major in Asian Studies are also encouraged to register for a survey history course (History 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 116) at an early stage of their study at Vanderbilt University. Related courses available in other disciplines are listed below.