March 26, 2008

TO: Wendy Larson, CAS Dean

FROM: Representatives of the 2007-8 CAS Curriculum Committee
Karen McPherson, Principal Reviewer

SUBJECT: Proposal for a Major (B.A.) in Cinema Studies, submitted by the Cinema Studies Committee (representing CAS, AAA, and Journalism)

The CAS Curriculum Committee has reviewed and unanimously approved the enclosed Cinema Studies Committee proposal for a new instructional program leading to a major (B.A.) in Cinema Studies to be awarded jointly by the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, and the School of Journalism. This ambitious cross-college program builds on, but also moves beyond, the existing Certificate in Film Studies; it will offer students the opportunity to study the diverse forms of moving image media within a broad and interdisciplinary context. The program will draw on the expertise of faculty in the three schools in order to establish a coherent and integrated curriculum offering background in historical, aesthetic, and theoretical perspectives on the study of moving image media as well as training in fundamental production skills. The CAS Curriculum Committee found the proposal to be well-conceived and to make a significant contribution to the cause of liberal education at the UO. As one of the first cross-college programs in the OUS system, the proposed Cinema Studies major represents an exciting opportunity for broad and productive interdisciplinary collaboration. Letters of support from program directors and department chairs whose faculty will be involved in Cinema Studies suggest a strong commitment to the program and its faculty. In sending this proposal forward, the CAS committee wants to stress the importance of defining clearly what the criteria should be for each of the areas defined in the curriculum (Fundamentals, Production, Core-Institutions, Core-Theory and Criticism, Core-National, Regional and Transnational, and Electives) since the specific courses that satisfy these areas will likely change over time. We also note the Cinema Studies Committee’s expressed commitment to further exploring the question of prerequisites for some of the advanced courses that make up the required curriculum. It will be important to insure that prerequisites do not make these courses unavailable or generate hidden credit hours within the program.

The CAS Curriculum Committee concluded that the major was well-structured, and that, having met all our requirements for intellectual rigor and coherence, would considerably enrich the CAS Curriculum.