

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the  
Regents  
April 17, 2014

ACTION REQUEST

SUBJECT: New Master degree program

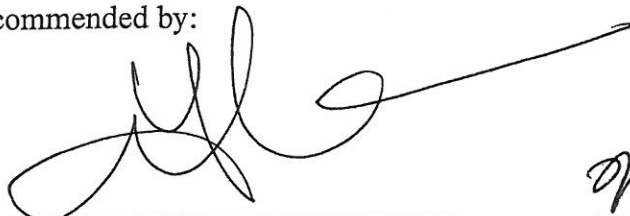
ACTION REQUESTED: Approval to offer a new Master of Design program in the  
Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design

The Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design proposes a new Master of Design graduate degree program. The proposed program, with a focus in integrative design, will emphasize cross-disciplinary collaboration, problem-based inquiry, and a project-centered structure to engage complex design problems in the public sector. It will integrate the research culture and resources of a world-class academic institution with the innovative approaches of industry and an informed understanding of human contexts to address critical social issues.

The proposed program is one result of the School's initiative to expand design education and to meet the growing demand for graduate-level training in interdisciplinary design. The program, with its anchor in problem-based inquiry and collaboration with external partners, will complement the existing studio-based Master of Fine Arts program. Opportunities for cross-pollination between the two learning tracks are built into the program's design. The Master of Design program will be overseen by a Faculty Director, with the School's administrative structure leveraged to meet the needs of recruiting, admissions, and other student services.

The proposed program was approved by the faculty of the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design in November 2013 and the Rackham Graduate School Executive Board in February of 2014. We request that the Regents approve the new graduate degree, Master of Design. Pending approval from the Regents and the Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan, the first students will enter the program in September 2015.

Recommended by:



Gunalan Nadarajan  
Dean and Professor, Penny W. Stamps School  
of Art and Design



Martha E. Pollack  
Provost and Executive Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

April 2014