**Rationale Document for:**

Museum Studies Minor revision

MSM101-Introduction to the World of Museums

The Department of Visual & Performing Arts is seeking to revise the current Museum Studies minor as passed last September. This revision is designed to reach a greater demographic on campus by providing basic courses that will make the minor more relevant to students in majors ranging from history to the natural sciences. The new minor also includes a 100 level course (outlined below) that will have no prerequisites making it accessible to incoming freshman.

**MSM101-*Introduction to the World of Museums*** is a new course not embedded within the original Museum Studies proposal passed last September. The rationale for this course is to serve as a gateway course to reach incoming freshman to introduce them to the potential of majoring or minoring in Museum Studies. MSM101 will have no prerequisites and will be able to reach students early in their matriculation giving them an opportunity to determine if a museum studies major or minor would assist in their potential professional careers. Unlike MSM210-Museum & Collections I and MSM211-Museums & Collections II that focus on specific museum studies concepts, MSM101 will provide a general overview of the history of the museum and an analysis of the various types of museums, and how each type serves society at large within the humanities. Documentation of the significance of such a course within an HBCU is outlined in the original Museum Studies proposal past last September.

In the near future, this course will be offered at least once per year and will most likely be taught by an adjunct faculty, preferably by someone affiliated with a nearby museum. The growth of the program and the staffing of the new museum on campus, may impact how, and by whom, this course will be taught.

This course may impact other departments by providing their students an opportunity to minor in an area that is aligned with their field of study. This would include History, Pan-Africana Studies, Anthropology, as well as those in the natural sciences.