1. Please provide the rationale for the proposed dissolution of the major or degree program:

The CAS Minor in Film Studies is being dissolved because it will be wholly subsumed and improved upon by the proposed Minor in Cinema & Media Studies (CIMS) to be offered under joint CAS-COM auspices as part of a comprehensive intercollegiate collaboration.

**Historical Background:** Since its introduction in 1983, the Minor in Film Studies has provided a programmatic focus for undergraduates whose interest in film and other moving-image media is primarily academic, rather than practice-oriented. With no departmental affiliation or dedicated resources other than a go-to faculty advisor, the Minor has maintained a low profile and remained structurally unchanged, while nonetheless continuing for 30 years to serve a steady stream of students as their only formal option for pursuing a secondary interest and credential in film art and history. Over the years, the Minor has been dependent, for renewal, on cognate departments’ priorities in faculty hiring and, for intellectual cohesion, on a single required foundational course. CAS would have undertaken to strengthen the Minor, and to position it more favorably as a centerpiece of strategic commitment to the creative arts in the liberal arts, had the much preferred path forward of joining forces with COM Film & Television not materialized and produced, inter alia, a new jointly sponsored Minor in Cinema & Media Studies.

Thus, while need persists for a “studies” alternative to the Film & Television Minor that has served practice-oriented students since 2011, the CAS Film Studies Minor per se is no longer needed. Its replacement by the CIMS Minor will improve the quality of students’ learning and enrich their experience in the following ways:
• The work of establishing aesthetic and socio-historical frameworks for multidimensional analysis of films will be distributed over two semesters of required foundational coursework, including significant engagement with non-U.S. cinema.

• Pooling of resources and coordinated class scheduling between COM Film & Television and participating CAS departments will increase the overall number of program electives, as well as students’ range of choices in a given semester.

• Alignment of the minor with a corresponding major will make the overall field and structure of cinema and media studies transparent, accommodate changes in students’ priorities, and engage minors with a larger, more diversely oriented cohort of fellow students.

• As members of the larger Cinema and Media Studies community, minors will benefit from its home base, administrative infrastructure, and co-curricular context, as well as gain access to a formally constituted Program Faculty.

2. Please provide the proposed timetable for the phase-out of the dissolved major or degree program:

New enrollments in the minor will cease immediately upon approval of the replacement CAS/COM Minor in Cinema & Media Studies. Notice of pending dissolution will be sent at that time to all school and college advising offices, the Registrar, and the Office of Admissions. If the CIMS Minor is approved in time for inclusion in the 2014/2015 Bulletin, all references to the Film Studies Minor (except directional signs as needed for navigation) will be removed from that and other publications.

3. Please describe the current student body (number of students by year) of the major or degree program and the trajectory of those student cohorts as it is dissolved:

Of the nine students currently enrolled in the Film Studies Minor, six are first-semester seniors, and the remaining three are sophomores. Since the seniors are currently on track to graduate in May (or, possibly, September) 2014, and the sophomores will have two opportunities (Fall 2014, Fall 2015) to take the only course (CI 101) that is newly required for the successor CIMS minor, Summer I 2014 and Fall 2014 are possible effective dates for dissolution of the Film Studies Minor. Care will nonetheless be taken to keep it technically on the books until all students’ trajectories have been formally confirmed in direct conversation with their advisors.

4. Please describe the budgetary impact that the proposed dissolution will have:

None.
1. Please provide the rationale for the proposed dissolution of the major or degree program:

The faculty of the Boston University Center for the Study of Asia (BUCSA) proposes dissolution of the current undergraduate major in East Asian Studies, contingent on approval of a new, successor major in Asian Studies. As detailed in the concurrently submitted new degree proposal, the successor major will subsume the major in East Asian Studies, maintaining its substantial requirements in both humanities and social science, and improving upon it, e.g., through the requirement of an integrating seminar and at least one additional semester of relevant language study. The pan-Asian scope of the new major reflects and reinforces BU’s balanced intellectual and administrative commitment to the whole region, including its global significance and the rich ongoing history (and increasing scholarly study) of interactions within and between its constituent countries and sub-regions. In particular, the new major provides a context for in-depth and comparative study of South Asia, now possible thanks to deliberate recent expansion of faculty expertise and relevant humanities, social science, and advanced language offerings. At the same time, students whose interests lie primarily in East Asia will remain able to pursue an East Asian focus, including study of Chinese, Japanese, and/or Korean, within the new Asian Studies major’s flexible interdisciplinary framework.

2. Please provide the proposed timetable for the phase-out of the dissolved major or degree program:

Assuming that the new Major in Asian Studies is approved for publication in the 2014/2015 bulletin and implementation beginning in or before September 2014, the East Asian Studies major will be removed from all listings and publications and cease taking in new students. Through advising, students who have not yet formally declared the East Asian major but express interest between now and final approval will be informed about the goals and structure of the
successor major and guided toward fulfillment of its requirements. The current Director/primary advisor of the East Asian major will also be a first point of contact for the new Major in Asian Studies. That continuity, as well as significant overlap between the two majors, ensures that, even were the new major not to be approved, these carefully advised students would not have misspent their time or increased their time to degree in their chosen area of study. The Director will also keep currently declared East Asian majors apprised of developments regarding the successor Asian Studies major, helping each student to confirm or modify his/her plan of study and, in the process, acquiring information needed to set a target date for official dissolution of with no negative consequences for any student.

3. Please describe the current student body (number of students by year) of the major or degree program and the trajectory of those student cohorts as it is dissolved:

Current majors in East Asian Studies will have the option of completing that major if, having been fully advised, they choose to do so. Of the 19 current majors, four are seniors tentatively scheduled to graduate in May 2014, four are juniors, three are sophomores, and eight are freshmen in their second semester at BU. A majority of students continuing in 2014/2015 and beyond will thus be able to accommodate and benefit from the new major’s requirements.

No additional costs will be incurred for maintaining the East Asian Studies major behind the scenes for as long as necessary, since its one specifically required course (CAS IR 275/PO 350: The Pacific Challenge) will continue to be offered annually. Students in potentially dwindling East Asian cohorts will be welcomed into the broader pan-Asian, BUCSA and Pardee School communities and, e.g., encouraged to enroll in the Asian major’s one-credit integrating seminar.

Note: The existing Minor in East Asian Studies will remain on the books and available for registration, pending thorough re-evaluation of future directions by the BUCSA faculty and their collaborators in the new Pardee School of Global Studies.

4. Please describe the budgetary impact that the proposed dissolution will have:

No budgetary impact. Modest funding currently associated with the East Asian major will be applied toward the new Major in Asian Studies.