

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

PRESENTED BY: Lisa Kalynchuk, chair, planning and priorities committee

DATE OF MEETING: December 18, 2014

SUBJECT: **Name change for Department of Religion and Culture**

DECISION REQUESTED:

It is recommended:

That the Department of Religion and Culture be renamed the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies, effective May 1, 2015, and that Council's Bylaws be amended to reflect the new name of the department.

PURPOSE:

The new name of Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies reflects the Linguistics discipline area in the department, and the standard disciplinary name of Religious Studies across Canadian universities.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

In 2012, Linguistics faculty and Linguistics programs from the Department of Languages and Linguistics were transferred to the Department of Religion and Culture. The proposed name is in response to requests to recognize the Linguistics faculty members and Linguistics program in the department.

CONSULTATION

The name change was undertaken in consultation within the College of Arts and Science. On October 2, 2014, the College of Arts and Science Faculty Council approved the proposed name change. The planning and priorities committee considered the name change at its meeting on December 3, 2014, and approved a motion at the meeting to recommend the name change to Council.

SUMMARY:

The planning and priorities committee supports the change of name to the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies as the new name will be more reflective of the identity of the department, as outlined in the name change request.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Request for Change of Name for the Department of Religion and Culture



**UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN**

Request for Change of Name

This Request form and attachments will be the basis for decision-making about this change.

Submitted by: Veronika Makarova Date 6 October, 2014

College: Arts and Science

College approval date: October 2, 2014

Proposed effective date of the change: 1 May, 2015

1. Proposed change of name

	From:	To:
College		
Department	Religion and Culture	Linguistics and Religious Studies
Program name		
Degree name		
Name of Field of Specialization (major, minor, concentration, etc)		
Course label (alphabetic)		
Building		
Street		
Other		

2. Documentation

Rationale

Provide a rationale for the change and describe the background leading to this decision.

Following the request of Linguistics faculty, supported by the faculty in the Department of Religion and Culture, in July 2012, Linguistics faculty and Linguistics program were transferred from the Department of Languages and Linguistics to the Department of Religion and Culture. The Department of Languages and Linguistics subsequently changed its name to the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies.

Following multiple requests from Linguistics faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, it was essential to change the name of the new Department (formerly, Religion and Culture) to reflect the transfer of Linguistics program to the Department. The name change was necessary in order to give a fair representation to the Linguistics program, its faculty and students. The name change was discussed in four meetings of the Department of Religion and Culture starting with January 2014. A consultation on the name change was held with the Dean of Arts & Science P. Stoicheff, Vice-Dean D. Parkinson and Associate Dean of Student Affairs G. DesBrisay on September 4, 2014. Following this consultation, at the meeting of the Department of Religion and Culture on September 18, 2014, the Department decided by consensus to change the name to the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies with the following rationale:

- Including the word “Linguistics” into the Department Title reflects the transfer of Linguistics program and its faculty to the Department and acknowledges the leading role of Linguistics in the new Department. Linguistics is one of the strongest humanities programs in the College of Arts and Science. The change from “Religion and Culture” to “Religious Studies” reflects the will of the faculty in the area to assume the standard disciplinary name, on par with other universities in Canada that have “religious studies” departments.

Impact of the change

Please describe any potential impact of this change, including any of the following areas if relevant:

- impact on students

Undergraduate and graduate students in the Department were involved in the discussion of the name change via e-mail and during departmental meetings. The students and student representatives in the Department meetings support the change. Positive impact is expected due to the acknowledgement of Linguistics in the new Department name and due to the introduction of the updated name of the discipline of religious studies.

- impact on faculty

Positive impact on faculty is expected, since the faculty in both Dpt programs support and welcome this change.

- impact on staff

N/A (no staff)

- impact on alumni

Positive impact on alumni is expected, since both disciplines are highlighted in the new name

- affect on other programs, departments, colleges, centres

None. STM supported the change.

- impact on university-wide systems (e.g. SiRIUS, UniFi, PAWS, U-Friend, Library, About US, etc.)

Minimal (the entries will have to be changed)

- resource areas such as library resources, physical facilities, and information technology

None.

- external impact (e.g. reputation, accreditation, other institutions, high schools, community organizations, professional bodies).

Please attach any statements or opinions received about this change.

Statement from partner unit (STM)

From: Natalia Khanenko-Friesen [mailto:nfriesen@stmcollege.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 2:31 PM
To: cstill@stmcollege.ca; Makarova, Veronika
Subject: HUMFA and the name change for the department of Religion and Culture

Dear Colleagues —

This is to inform you that on September 19, the department of Religion and Culture at St. Thomas More College held its first meeting this academic year.

The proposal for the name change for the Arts and Sciences corresponding department (to become the department of Linguistics and Religious Studies) was discussed amongst other items on the agenda.

The members of the STM department supported the proposed name change unanimously.

Sincerely,

Natalia Khanenko-Friesen
Head
Department of Religion and Culture
St. Thomas More College

**Statements from Religious Studies students:
"Religious Studies"?**

Date: 火2014年9月9日 午後9:55:35 GMT-6
To: "Keyworth, George" <gak974@mail.usask.ca>

Hi Professor Keyworth,

My name is Joanna Korchinski and I am in my 4th year of the religion and culture program. I prefer Religious Studies as the name of our program and department. Sometimes people are unsure what the "culture" bit entails and have commented that it is a little vague.

I hope this was helpful

Joanna

From: "Carlson, Leif" <lrc542@mail.usask.ca>
Subject: RE: online poll: "Religion and Culture" or "Religious Studies"?
Date: 火2014年9月9日 午後4:57:43 GMT-6
To: "Keyworth, George" <gak974@mail.usask.ca>

For consistency's sake, I guess I would prefer Religious Studies. It's generally what I tell people that I study anyway.

-Leif

From: "Smith, Joshua" <j.t.smith@usask.ca>
Subject: Re: online poll: "Religion and Culture" or "Religious Studies"?
Date: 月2014年9月8日 午後6:25:40 GMT-6
To: "Keyworth, George" <gak974@mail.usask.ca>

Hello George,

I hope this email finds you well. I personally prefer the name Religious Studies because I think it is more identifiable.

Thanks,

Josh

Statements from Faculty

-----Original Message-----

From: Peter Wood [mailto:peter.wood@usask.ca]

Sent: Monday, October 06, 2014 4:00 PM

To: Makarova, Veronika

Subject: Departmental name change

Dear Veronika,

I would like to express my satisfaction about the name change of our department from "Religion and Culture" to "Linguistics and Religious Studies".

After more than two years, I can finally identify with the name of my department. The new departmental name will give all linguists a visible profile both within the University and within our discipline.

I am glad that I don't have to explain anymore, why I am in the department of Religion and Culture if I am a linguist.

Best regards,

Peter

Peter Wood

Assistant Professor of Linguistics

Religion and Culture

University of Saskatchewan

From: Bettina Spreng [mailto:bettina.spreng@usask.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 10:05 AM

To: Makarova, Veronika

Subject: Why this name change is life-changing for me ;)

Dear Veronika,

as a young scholar, I represent not only my own work and the program, but also the university, the college, and the department. It starts with simple things like my name tag that may show my affiliation as Department of Religion and Culture at the U of S while I am networking and presenting at a Linguistics conference.

Internationally and in Canada, being affiliated with "The Department of Religion and Culture", especially on my own web site and my spaces on LinkedIn and ResearchGate create a complete disconnect between my affiliation and my discipline. Linguistics is a science in method and approach and to be affiliated with a discipline that is not diminishes my credibility, and in connection, the program's.

Too harsh?

Best,

Bettina

From: Keyworth, George
Sent: Monday, October 06, 2014 7:41 PM
To: Makarova, Veronika
Subject: Re: perhaps a 2-liner form you too as the Religious studies chair?

Dear Veronika,

Rationale for changing "Religion & Culture" to "Religious Studies":
In North America there are only 3 Religion and Culture programs: Wilfred Laurier was the first; the U of S followed Laurier; the University of Winnipeg followed the U of S. More than a decade ago, when Anthropology faculty joined Religious Studies, Religious Studies faculty at the U of S opted to change the department name--and program--to include Anthropology, with the result than a more interdisciplinary program in Religion and Culture was created by 2007. Since then, all Anthropology faculty in the department have either retired or returned to the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, thereby making inclusion--on an interdisciplinary basis--of Anthropology faculty and students a moot point. Because nearly all programs and departments across North America that offer programs in the academic study of religion are called Religious Studies, current faculty in Religion and Culture support changing the name [back to] Religious Studies. It is well worth noting that there is overwhelming student support to change the name [back to] Religious Studies. Furthermore, consultation with faculty who teach for the current Religion and Culture program at St. Thomas More College yielded additional support for the name change to Religious Studies from Religion and Culture.

Best regards,
George

Statements from Alumni

-----Original Message-----

From: Fischer, Curtis
Sent: Monday, October 06, 2014 8:14 PM
To: Makarova, Veronika
Subject: Department name change

Dear Professor Makarova,

As an alumnus of the Linguistics program, I am enthralled to hear of the name change from the Department of Religion and Culture to the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies. I feel the new name better reflects the department from which I received my degree, provides greater clarity on applications to graduate programs or jobs, and is more indicative of the strong presence and role of the Linguistics program in the department and in the entire College of Arts and Science.

Thank you for the excellent news.

Sincerely,

Curtis Fischer
University of Saskatchewan alumnus
B.A. Honours Linguistics

From: Joe Wickenhauser [mailto:joe.w@usask.ca]
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2014 10:57 PM

To: Makarova, Veronika
Subject: Department Name Change

Dear Veronika,

I am very glad to hear about the possibility of changing your department's name to include Linguistics. As an alumnus with a BA in linguistics with experience as a sessional lecturer, I am relieved to know that you are working towards a greater recognition of linguistics in your department in the College of Arts & Science.

While it may seem like a small change, it can make a big difference to have continuity between my formal degree and work experience and existing programs at the U of S. This name change demonstrates that the linguistics program is thriving and that the degree continues to be valued at the University of Saskatchewan following recent restructuring decisions.

I hope you are able to see this name change become a reality!

Best,

Joe Wickenhauser
BA Linguistics '09

Costs

Please describe whether this change will result in any additional costs for the university (ie, repainting signs, technical changes in SiRIUS, PAWS, financial services, etc.)

No costs except for website change which was already planned irrespective of the name change.

Consultation

Please describe any consultation undertaken with other university offices, such as Student and Enrolment Services, Institutional Strategy and Analytics, Institutional Planning and Assessment, Financial Services, Facilities Management, Office of the University Secretary, Information Technology Services, etc. Please attach any memos or emails received about this consultation

A consultation with SESD was conducted on October , 2014

3. Review and Approval Authority

All changes of names for academic entities must be requested by the responsible college, following internal approval by its own approval procedures.

After submission of the Request by the College, the following approval procedures are used, and must be initiated by the College:

- **Changes of course labels** are approved by the Registrar in consultation with the college offering the courses. Any disputes arising over course label changes will be referred to the Academic Programs Committee for resolution. Course label changes are to be distributed for information through the Course Challenge system.
- **Changes of names for colleges and departments** are approved by University Council (following recommendation by the Planning & Priorities Committee) and by the Board of Governors.
- **Changes of names for degrees or a degree-level programs** are approved by University Council
- **Changes of names for fields of specialization** are approved by the Academic Programs Committee of Council.
- **Changes of names for buildings, streets and other physical entities** are approved by the Board of Governors (following recommendation by the Naming Committee).

If you have any questions about this form or these procedures, please contact the Office of the University Secretary or email university.secretary@usask.ca

Excerpt from the minutes of the College of Arts and Science Faculty Council meeting, October 2, 2014:

Moved/Seconded (Makarova/ Keyworth): That the meeting approves the proposed change of the departmental name from the Department of Religion and Culture to the Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies.

The motion was debated, put to a vote, and APPROVED by a majority of voters present.

Consultation with the Registrar and SESD was held on Friday, October 10th, 2014 from 10.00 to 11.00 am in Arts 914. Present: Alexis Dahl, Seanine Warrington, Jason Doell, Melissa Kyrejto.

A consultation with Alex Beldan was held over e-mail:

From: Beldan, Alex
Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2014 4:05 PM
To: Makarova, Veronika
Subject: RE: Dpt name change consultaiotn

Hi, Veronika,

Thank you for the email. I've read over the form and it looks in order. And yes, the next steps are to make sure all consultations are in order, and then submit it to Planning and Priorities.

Thanks,
Alex