



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: April 22, 2005 for May 11, 2005

AGENDA ITEM: 7 (a)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Ibero-American Studies name change to "Latin American Studies".

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee has general responsibility for monitoring minor changes within degree programs.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

Since 1994 the Faculty of Arts and Science has offered an undergraduate program in Ibero-American Studies (IAS). Designed as an interdisciplinary initiative, this program enables students to combine broadly based course work in Latin American subjects with language study in Spanish and/or Portuguese. At present the program is housed in Spanish and Portuguese, and the Chair of this department serves *ex officio* as its Director. The program offers a core course every winter session (IAS 200Y Ibero-America: History, Civilization, Culture); additional courses in various aspects of Latin America are available in Geography, History, and Political Science. Most students pursue a Major program; the Minor Program in IAS, limited to students in the B. Com. Program, has attracted very low enrolment in recent years.

The proposal for this name change comes out of the *Stepping Up* Plan to reinvigorate Latin American Studies at the University of Toronto. On the basis of wide consultation with faculty members in Latin American subjects on all three campuses, the Plan proposed redefining IAS as a program in Latin American Studies. The new name will better represent the academic focus of the program and will bring our designation of this area in line with common practice at peer institutions. The *Stepping Up* Plan envisages a generous reformulation of Latin American Studies, through a revised undergraduate program, a range of research initiatives, enhanced linkages across departments, and collaboration with new and existing interdisciplinary programs and centres (such as Diaspora Studies and the Centre for the Study of the United States). This measure has the support of the current Director of IAS and of all the faculty members consulted during the *Stepping Up* process.

The name change was approved by at the Faculty of Arts & Science Joint Meeting of the Faculty Council and General Committee on March 7, 2005.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the name change.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.