

FOR APPROVAL

PUBLIC

OPEN

TO:	Academic Board
SPONSOR: CONTACT INFO:	Trevor Young, Vice-President & Provost (416) 978-2122, provost@utoronto.ca
PRESENTER: CONTACT INFO:	As above
DATE:	February 16, 2024 for March 7, 2024
AGENDA ITEM:	7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Change in the name of the Faculty of Arts and Science’s Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, an Extra-Departmental Unit B, to the Centre for European and Eurasian Studies.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name changes in academic divisions (excluding namings) are considered by the Academic Board and confirmed by the Executive Committee. (AB Terms of Reference, Section 5.2.7)

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **Academic Board [For Approval] (March 7, 2024)**
2. Executive Committee [For Confirmation] (March 26, 2024)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The change to the name of the Faculty of Arts and Science’s Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies received approval from the Faculty of Arts and Science’s Faculty Council on February 14, 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This is a proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Science to change the name of the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, an Extra-Departmental Unit B (EDU:B), to the Centre for European and Eurasian Studies, effective July 1, 2024.

The proposed change is meant to align the Centre’s name more closely with naming conventions of other area-focused units at the University, which are named in more geographic terms. The proposed name change also aligns with the University’s Three Priorities; the more inclusive, geographic name signals the

unit's interest in engaging with a wide range of international partners as well as diaspora communities within the GTA.

The Centre offers the following academic programs: Major and Minor in European Affairs; Major and Minor in Hungarian Studies; and MA in European and Russian Affairs. With the Faculty of Law, it offers a combined degree program between the Juris Doctor (JD) and its MA degree program. In line with this proposal, the name of the MA program is changing through a separate minor modification proposal from "European and Russian Affairs" to "European and Eurasian Studies", effective September 1, 2024.

Consultation outside the Faculty of Arts and Science has taken place with the Faculty of Law, University of Mississauga and University of Toronto Scarborough.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Any additional financial obligations resulting from this change will be met at the Faculty level.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Resolved:

THAT subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee,

THAT the name of the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, an Extra-Departmental Unit B, be changed to the Centre for European and Eurasian Studies, effective July 1, 2024.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Cover
Proposal



Proposal for a Unit Name Change

Current Unit Name	Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, EDU:B
Proposed Unit Name	Centre for European and Eurasian Studies
Academic Programs Associated with the Unit	<p>BA Minor in European Affairs</p> <p>BA Major in European Affairs</p> <p>BA Minor in Hungarian Studies*</p> <p>BA Major in Hungarian Studies*¹</p> <p>MA degree in European and Russian Affairs</p> <p>Combined degree program, JD/MA (European and Russian Affairs), in partnership with the Faculty of Law</p>
Proponent	Edward Schatz, CERES Director
Version Date (Please change the date as you edit the proposal.)	February 6, 2024

Summary

Please provide a brief description of what is being changed (e.g., name of unit, names of any programs, as applicable) and the goals for the change.

Proposal for Consideration

This proposal is to change the name of the “Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies”, an Extra-Departmental Unit B (EDU:B) in the Faculty of Arts and Science to “Centre for European and Eurasian Studies.” The Centre offers both undergraduate and graduate programs and the name change will apply to both the undergraduate and graduate units.

Rationale or Case for Action

You may wish to speak to when the current unit name was first created or last modified, as well as what

¹ Enrolments in the minor and major in Hungarian Studies are administratively suspended as of July 7, 2023.

has led to the decision to propose a unit name change. Where appropriate, include relevant metrics and/or explain alignment with the division's academic plan and/or the [University's Three Priorities](#).

Founded in 1963 as the Centre for Russian and East European Studies, our geographic remit expanded in 2006 to include Europe, giving us the current name. While centres like ours in other North American universities were confronted with something of an identity crisis after the events of 1989, we launched the gradual transition over a longer period to reorient our efforts toward both east and west, broadening our intellectual scope into new areas, while maintaining established strengths.

Including Russia in the name in 2006 was a leftover from the Cold War when Soviet Russia indeed did structure much of what happened across East Europe. Today, however, we are in a different era.

There are three main reasons for the change:

1. Our centre's current name references the name of a single country (Russia), while it describes the rest of our geographic remit in general terms (Europe, Eurasia). The new name avoids elevating a single country above others. As important as Russia is and will continue to be to the work of our centre, the study of this broad region should not necessarily highlight Russia specifically any more than it might highlight Germany, France, or Uzbekistan. This is particularly important in the context of academic thinking that seeks to view power in alternative ways—i.e., not necessarily from the perspective of the imperial centre.
2. It is normal to name area studies units in geographic terms. The centre's current name is out of sync with the names of other area-focused units at U of T, which are geographical and make no reference to specific countries. Exceptions within the Faculty of Arts & Science are the Centre for the Study of the United States, EDU:C, and the Centre for the Study of Global Japan, EDU:D, but in these cases the remit is specifically a single country and its external influence. "Centre for European and Eurasian Studies" is simple and geographically defined. Both "Europe" and "Eurasia" have reasonably well settled conventional understandings that define our common enterprise.
3. There are important epistemological motivations for the change. The historical practice of seeing the region through the eyes of Russia has had a detrimental impact on our understanding of important trends in the region. It has led to a mistaken impression that ethnic Russians, rather than a diverse group of nationalities, defeated Nazi Germany in WWII. In the 1980s, it led to an underestimation of popular support for secession from the USSR that eventually resulted in the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. More recently, a Russia-centric perspective contributed to an underestimation of the continued importance of Russian imperial thinking in the government and population.

In consultations (described below), some mistakenly assumed that the name change is primarily driven by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Others raised concerns that the name change might create the impression of a reduced focus on Russia or that our centre no longer covers Russia. We feel that these latter concerns can be mitigated by Russia focused programming. Indeed, this year we launched two new speaker series, the Russian History and Politics Seminar and the Russia's War/Russia at War series. In addition, we plan to make the case for Munk School of Global Affairs

and Public Policy-based faculty lines in the study of Russia. (We note that few of those who expressed reservations during our consultations in fact study our broad region, and none of them are faculty specializing in Russia or Eurasia.)

The new name is aligned with the University's three priorities.

1. **Leveraging our location.** The GTA is marked by its exceptional diversity, including innumerable diaspora communities. By changing our name to an inclusive, geographic one, we signal our openness to engage diaspora communities with roots from far Western Europe to far Eastern Eurasia.
2. **Strengthening international partnerships:** Our centre enjoys strong ties with a wide range of academic institutions and think-tanks across Europe and Eurasia, as we place MA students in summer internships and exchange opportunities in the region every year. By changing our name to an inclusive, geographic one, we signal our interest in engaging with the entire range of partners, without privileging one country. Our most recent MOU is with Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan, a country that is itself emerging from Russia's shadow.
3. **Reinventing undergraduate education:** Our unit has a small but flourishing major and minor in European Affairs. While we are not proposing to change the name or focus of that program, the change to the centre's name to an inclusive, geographic one helps to invite students to conversations across this vast region on a wide range of topics, without implying that Russia is *primus inter pares*, analytically or normatively speaking.

Impact and Implementation of Proposed Change(s)

Indicate the positive and negative implications that need to be considered in the unit name change.

- State the impact of the proposed unit name change on the undergraduate and graduate student experience as well as potential effects on other Arts & Science academic units and University of Toronto divisions.
- State the impact of the proposed unit name change on resources including faculty/teaching resources, administrative staff, space, equipment, communications (e.g., website).

The impact on undergraduate and graduate student experience will be positive, as the new name will encourage broader conversations in coursework and extracurriculars that span the entirety of both Europe and Eurasia. On the negative side, students will have to become accustomed to the new name.

The impact on other FAS units and divisions will be positive, to the extent that a more inclusive centre and more inclusive programming will generate more opportunities for the centre to leverage its connections with other units.

The impact on resources will be minimal. The centre will need to make some minimal changes to the website, to the digital letterhead, and to signage at the Munk School. We will need to communicate our name-change broadly to our partners, cognate units, and broadly to the university community. All

of these steps will be taken without notable strain on existing resources.

In a forthcoming minor modification proposal, we will also propose to change the name of our MA degree program from “European and Russian Affairs” to “European and Eurasian Studies.”

Consultations Undertaken

Please provide evidence of consultation with any stakeholders (e.g., students, staff, faculty members, alumni, donors, U of T divisions, third-party stakeholders if applicable) to be affected by the proposed unit name change. Indicate how stakeholders will be notified of the unit name change following approval.

Timeline of consultations:

1. Before Feb 2022: informal conversations about changing CERES’s name ongoing for some time; they accelerated after February 2022.
2. Spring 2022: director Randall Hansen struck a committee, which surveyed CERES faculty (including those with graduate faculty membership but whose home departments are in UTM and UTSC) and students. The survey proved inconclusive, as a plurality wanted a name-change, but opinions were divided about what to change the name to.
3. July 2022: New director Edward Schatz accepted the committee’s recommendation not to proceed immediately with the name-change, but he indicated a willingness to have future conversations.
4. January 2023: Faculty organized a 2-day CERES retreat, at which the name “Centre for European and Eurasian Studies” received strong support.
5. June 2023: Based on the strong support voiced at the retreat, CERES’s academic Advisory Board invited feedback from faculty unable to attend the retreat. With the exception of some retired faculty and some faculty with research interests in West Europe, the additional feedback indicated clear support for the new name.
6. October 2023: Edward Schatz and Lucan Way presented case for name-change to Munk faculty meeting and addressed those who had reservations.
7. November 2023: CERES solicited feedback from cognate units, including the Asian Institute, Sociology, Political Science, Celtic Studies, History, Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, and Slavic Languages and Literatures. We received a total of one response, but that response didn’t respond to the matter of CERES’s name and rather recommended splitting CERES into two distinct centres, which was not in the scope of consultations or the current proposal.
8. December 2023: CERES solicited feedback from current students. Student feedback was in favour of a name change both for the centre and for the MA degree. Among MA students, 61% (14/23) supported the name change and 61% (14/23) supported the degree program name change. Among BA students, 45% (5/11) supported the name change. We attribute the lower levels of support from undergraduates to the relative distance of these students from the array of issues at stake.

9. A December 11 draft was sent to the Dean's Offices of UTM and UTSC for circulation to pertinent parties or units at their discretion, for their information or feedback. Comments were requested by January 15, 2024. UTSC's Department of Language Studies and Department of Historical and Cultural Studies received the proposal and did not submit feedback. UTM's Departments of Political Science, Language Studies, and Historical Studies received the proposal and in each case, there were no concerns or comments on the proposed changes.
10. On January 29, 2024, the Director of CERES sent a January 25 draft, for information, to the Faculty of Law's Assistant Dean, Academic; Assistant Dean, Graduate Programs; and Assistant Dean, JD. No questions or feedback were received as of February 6, 2024.
11. At the February 1, 2024, meeting of A&S's Graduate Curriculum Committee, the Director of CERES presented an item for consideration and a January 25 draft was circulated in advance of the meeting. No questions or comments were received in response to the item.

Unit Name Change Implementation

Please indicate when the unit name change will go into effect as well as where and how this will be implemented (e.g., departmental website, any associated program or course name changes in the A&S Calendar, and so on).

Notification following approval:

After the change is approved, we will email all cognate units, all current and recent students, and all centre faculty. The Director will write a statement for the centre's website discussing the change, as well as the activities of the centre. The resources required to update the Centre and Faculty's publications will be minimal and supported through existing resources.

Effective Date

July 1, 2024

Governance Pathway

Steps	Dates
<i>Pre-Governance:</i> Consolidated institutional feedback coordinated by VPAP	January 24, 2024
<i>Pre-Governance:</i> Provost's Advisory Group	January 31, 2024

Arts & Science Council for recommendation	February 14, 2024
Academic Board for approval	March 7, 2024
Executive Committee for confirmation	March 26, 2024