



TO: Academic Board

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DATE: January 9, 2008 for January 31, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 6

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

University of Toronto at Mississauga: Name change of the Department of French, German and Italian to the "Department of Language Studies".

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Board has authority to approve name changes of academic units.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) is proposing a change in the name of the *Department of French, German and Italian* to the *Department of Language Studies* (Appendix 1). The reason for the proposed change is to allow for a broader range of language courses to be taught on campus within a rubric that can support the delivery of these courses with expertise in language teaching pedagogy. The proposed name change reflects the presence of Linguistics within the Department, and it leaves the Department better able to take student demand into account and to consider changes to the number and nature of languages taught in upcoming years.

In the fast few years, UTM has increased the number of language courses taught (some previously offered by non-language departments). UTM aims to formalize, unify and strengthen this area of program delivery by providing a sound organizational and academic foundation for future language programming. The French, German and Italian courses, as well as existing Linguistics courses, will continue to be housed within the Department of Language Studies.

In order to develop a distinctive approach, the department will bring language instructors together for semiannual workshops to discuss various issues related to language-based teaching, technology and discussion of resources and in order to enhance the quality and effectiveness of language teaching.

The development of new language courses resulted from a successful Academic Initiative Fund (AIF) application from the UTM Historical Studies Department, jointly with UTSC. As the determination was being made as to which languages would be offered and by what units, UTM engaged in consultation with New College and with Faculty of Arts and Science language departments. UTM Department of French, German and Italian members have embraced a new vision for a global approach to language study programming for the department. The change in mission helped to clarify the need for a change in name.

There is strong support within the Department for the proposed name change. At a departmental retreat, held in February 2007, it was unanimously decided, after an

extensive and thorough discussion, to propose the renaming of the department to align with the new vision for the department. At the April 26, 2007 departmental meeting, members discussed options for names and overwhelmingly voted for the proposed name "Department of Language Studies".

The proposed name change has been approved by the UTM Academic Affairs Committee (November 27, 2007), the Tricampus Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee (November 28, 2007) and the Erindale College Council (December 11, 2007).

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Academic Board approve:

THAT the name of the University of Toronto at Mississauga Department of French, German and Italian become the "Department of Language Studies", effective immediately.