



**Proposal to Change the Name of the Centre of Criminology to  
‘Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies’**

December 7, 2010

The Faculty of Arts and Science is proposing a change in the name of the Centre of Criminology to the *Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies* in order to reflect more clearly the scholarship and teaching of the Centre. The proposed name change will allow the Centre to further develop important outreach and will enhance graduate student recruitment.

The Centre of Criminology is an extra-departmental unit (EDU A) with faculty appointing rights, offering MA and PhD programs in criminology. From the time of its founding in 1963, the Centre has valued rigorous research that broadly examines the study of crime patterns, criminal behaviour, and the administration of criminal justice along with the study of how various types of law (e.g. criminal, civil, administrative, regulatory) and other mechanisms of social regulation are used to prevent, manage and sanction harmful conduct and effect security. The Centre’s research in sociolegal studies is internationally recognized with faculty members publishing in leading law and society journals.

Though the Centre describes itself as having two fields (criminology/ criminal justice and socio-legal studies), it is more common than not for students’ doctoral supervision committees to include faculty who might be seen as representing both fields. A core ‘law and society’ course has been offered for many years within the graduate program. The 2008 OCGS review of the programs noted that the Centre’s graduate program has a ‘world-class reputation in two different fields, criminology and sociolegal studies’.

There is strong support within the Centre for the proposed name change. There has been discussion, within the Centre over the past decade or so, about changing the name of the Centre so as to reflect the breadth of approach taken by those associated with the institution. More focussed consultations during academic planning this past year involved core and cross-appointed faculty members, emeritus professors who remain active in Centre research, doctoral students, and senior colleagues at the Faculty of Law. The proposed revised name of the Centre will also assist in placement of graduate students by better reflecting the nature of their program.

The Faculty of Arts and Science also offers an undergraduate program in criminology at Woodsworth College. No name change is being proposed for the undergraduate program. However, in the context of the increasingly close relationship between the Centre and the undergraduate criminology program, a new 2<sup>nd</sup> year ‘law and society’ undergraduate course has recently been designed and will be added to the existing upper-level course choices that are more aligned with ‘sociolegal studies’. The process of development of the course and the general curriculum renewal of the undergraduate program, has involved numerous discussions with

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Woodsworth staff and students, and they are also supportive of the proposed name change for the Centre.

The Chair of the Department of Sociology, Principal of Woodsworth College and Dean of the Faculty of Law were consulted and are in support of the name change. The proposal was discussed at the Tri-Campus Deans meeting on November 25, 2010. The Faculty of Arts and Science Council approved the name change on December 6, 2010.

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the name change. The Centre is not proposing to change the name of its graduate programs. The Centre name change would be effective immediately pending University governance approval.