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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 6, 2008

TO: Daniel Wubah, Chair, University Curriculum Committee

FROM: Sheila K. Dickison, Assoc. Dean Academic Affairs *Sheila K. Dickison*

RE: Department name change proposal

Enclosed please find the request for four department name changes in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This proposal was approved unanimously at the College Curriculum Committee meeting on October 29, 2008.

I am asking that you put this item on the November 18, 2008 UCC agenda.

Enclosure

Cc: Dean D'Anieri

November 3, 2008

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is requesting approval for three department name changes described below. These name changes have resulted from a departmental reorganization and department mergers.

On July 1, 2008 in response to recommendations from the Interim Dean and the President, the Board of Trustees directed a departmental merger and reorganization of several departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as a result of statewide budget cutbacks.

1. The department of Romance Languages and Literatures underwent the following changes: Faculty in Spanish and Portuguese became the nucleus of a new department, which is now proposing the name, **Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies**. Faculty in French, Italian and Haitian Creole became part of a second department, which is now proposing the name, **Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures**.
2. Faculty in the Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures and the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies also became part of the new department which is now proposing the name, **Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures**.
- A. NAME: The proposed name for the department consisting of faculty in Spanish and Portuguese is the **Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies**.

VOTE: On September 4, 2008 the faculty voted on this name and an alternative name, Department of Spanish and Portuguese. The vote was 9-6 in favor of Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies.

RATIONALE: The addition of the word “Studies” to the name is intended to suggest that the faculty do more than teach beginning language but that they also teach and research culture, literature, linguistics and theory.

- B. NAME: The proposed name for the department consisting of faculty in French, Italian, Haitian Creole, and those from the former Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures and the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies is **Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures**.

VOTE: The department’s Transition Committee oversaw a selection process in which department members were asked to submit suggestions for name: there were six different proposals on the ballot: **Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures** was the overwhelming choice (28-9); none of the other choices received more than two or three votes each. The Transition committee counted the vote on October 3, 2008.

RATIONALE: Languages, Literatures and Cultures, a name found at other institutions around the country, fairly represents the wide diversity of research and teaching in many areas such as language, literature, culture, linguistics and theory by a highly talented faculty.

2. The Department of Sociology and the Department of Criminology, Law and Society were merged into one unit.



NAME: The proposed name for the new department is the **Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law**.

VOTE: The combined faculty reached a consensus to vote up or down on the name Sociology and Criminology & Law. On September 12, 2008 the name was approved with the following vote: 21 in favor, 5 opposed and 1 abstention.

RATIONALE: The majority of faculty members in the combined department (including many in the Criminology program) are sociologists by training. A few received graduate degrees in interdisciplinary criminology programs and one in psychology. In deciding on a new name for the merged department, the majority of the faculty voted to put Sociology first in the title to reflect the dominant disciplinary identification of the program and to include Criminology and Law (to reflect the specialized interest of the new department in the area of Criminology). Around the nation, the departments that include both Sociology and Criminology typically follow this ordering in their titles. The final component in the title "& Law" was retained from the former department of Criminology, Law and Society's title to reflect the program's unique expertise in the area of psychology and law.