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The University of Georgia

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Office of the Vice President for Instruction

March 13, 2007

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2006-2007

Dr. William K. Vencill, Chair

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences - Dr. Amy B. Batal

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Veterinary Medicine - Dr. Paige Carmichael

Graduate School - Dr. Malcolm R. Adams

Undergraduate Student Representative – Ms. Alison Gibbons

Graduate Student Representative – Ms. Lindsey Scott

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal to change the name of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages to the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies will be an agenda item for the March 23, 2007, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Dr. William K. Vencill, Chair  
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.  
Professor Jere W. Morehead



# The University of Georgia

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
*Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages*

Associate Dean Hugh Ruppensburg  
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
Old College  
University of Georgia  
Campus

January 17, 2007

Dear Hugh:

Attached please find a Name Change Justification Form with attachments for the proposed name change of the department into *Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies*. My understanding is that this will have to go through the University Curriculum Committee and, as you pointed out recently, their deadline for the year is coming up. For that reason, I would much appreciate it, if this could be expedited, so that the curriculum committee will have it in hand prior to the deadline. Thank you.

Best regards,

Martin Kagel  
Department Head

NAME CHANGE JUSTIFICATION FORM

I. School/College

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Name Changes:

Current Department Name:

Proposed Department Name:

Germanic & Slavic Languages

Germanic & Slavic Studies

Major Name Changes:

Current Major Name: Degree Proposed Major Name: Degree

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Minor Name Change:

Current Minor Name: Degree Proposed Minor Name: Degree

\_\_\_\_\_

Prefix Changes:

A prefix change package should be submitted after the name change has been approved.

Current Department Proposed Department

Prefix Prefix

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

JUSTIFICATION:

Attach a page justifying changes.

SIGNATURES:

School/College:

*Hugh P. ...*

2-12-07

Department:

*Lib. Lang.*

4/17/07

### Attachment: Justification For the Proposed Name Change

Over the past twenty years the study and teaching of German and Russian in the United States has undergone a significant transformation. Under the premise that a conceptual understanding of culture and cultural difference was essential for the grasp of historical phenomena, including literature and language, German and Russian scholars in the U.S. began to widen the scope of scholarly inquiry with regard to interpretive approaches and be more inclusive as to potential objects of study to include popular or mass culture. This *cultural turn* was based on the faculties' desire for increased relevance and greater applicability of what was researched and taught, partially in response to students' demands. Overall, it opened up a new range of possible research areas, topics, and forms of investigation.

As the perspective changed from clearly delimited disciplinary boundaries to adopting interdisciplinary and comparative approaches, a common disciplinary orientation (philology) and a privileged object of study (the German or Russian literary canon) lost its dominance and was replaced by the study of German or Russian from multiple disciplinary perspectives. As a result, the traditional study of literature and language in an established framework of literary and social history had to make room for scholarship more diverse in perspective and outlook, which came to be known under a new disciplinary designation: *German or Russian Studies*.

The transformation outlined above brought with it a number of significant consequences, including the development of entirely new curricula, a designation of new degrees, and a different scholarly orientation. In line with this development, the *Department of Germanic & Slavic Languages* at the University of Georgia undertook a radical curriculum reform of the German undergraduate curriculum in 2001, when a number of new courses were added, others modified or abolished entirely, and requirements for the major changed. The Russian program followed suit, now offering courses in Russian and Slavic culture side by side with the more traditional curriculum. A further revision involved the German Master's program. Both programs also hired faculty that could teach film in addition to literature and language.

We are asking for approval to rename the department into *Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies* to reflect this change. The departmental faculty voted overwhelmingly in favor of the proposed name change on October 20, 2006. The recorded vote was 9 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention. In the opinion of the majority of the department, the name change represents a final step in the process of the revision of the program, allowing us to show that our field encompasses more than the study of language and literature. It is also entirely in line with developments in the field, as there already exist a number of departments nationwide that call themselves German or Russian studies departments (a listing of sample departments is attached).

**Georgia Universities****Department Name**

Emory University

Department of Russian and Eastern European Studies  
Department of German Studies**SouthEast Universities****Florida Universities**

University of Florida

Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies

**North Carolina**

East Carolina University

Russian Studies

**Texas**

University of Texas

Germanic Studies  
Slavic and Eurasian Studies**Large Public and Selected Private**

University of Arizona

Department of German Studies

The University of Chicago

Department of Germanic Studies

University of New York

Russian and Slavic Studies

University of California, San Diego

Department of German Studies  
Department of Russian and Soviet Studies  
Department of Russian Studies

University of California, Irvine

University of California, Santa Barbara

Germanic, Slavic and Semitic Studies

University of California, Riverside

German Studies

Indiana University

Germanic Studies  
Russian and East European Area Studies