

November 21, 2018

Re: Change from "English" to "English Studies"

To:

Humanities Chair, Dr. Carol Harding

Dean of LAS, Dr. Kathy Cassity

Interim Provost & VP for Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Winningham

Colleagues,

This is a formal request to change the name of the English Department from "English" to "English Studies". This change accompanies a major revision of the program as a whole. The choice of the term "English Studies" follows common usage in the UK, and is becoming common in the US. The reasoning goes like this:

- 1) The traditional terms "English" or "English major" have accumulated the connotation of "English Literature" as the default, primary content of the major.
- 2) However, this default understanding is inconsistent with actual practice in many departments where the study of Literature, the study of Linguistics (called "Language" in the UK) and the study and practice of Writing (creative and professional) are distinct pathways for students, with no presumption that Literature is primary.
- 3) Our new program revision intends to explicitly reflect the concept of "English Studies," using this neutral, umbrella term for the Major, within which there will be:
  - a) a common core of (13) credits consisting of one "introduction to the discipline" course each from Literature (4), Linguistics (4) and Writing (4), plus a senior capstone/portfolio course (1)
  - b) four distinct areas of concentration: Integrated English Studies, Literature, Linguistics and Writing. Each has its own set of requirements, the details of which accompany the proposal currently in the queue.
- 4) The program proposal is currently undergoing minor revisions suggested by the Campus Curriculum Committee, and will be reconsidered at the next meeting. The revisions are independent of the name change.

Respectfully Submitted,



David Hargreaves, Chair (of the soon to be Department of English Studies )

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