

March 30, 2017

To: Riverside Division of the UC Academic Senate
Through: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
From: Cynthia Larive, Provost and EVC *Cynthia Larive*

Request for name changes to a CHASS department

Dear Dylan,

I am forwarding a proposal from the Department of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages to change its name to the Department of Comparative Literature and Languages.

This proposal has been developed and approved by the faculty of the department, endorsed by CHASS Dean Milagros Peña, and approved by the CHASS executive committee. I am pleased to add my support for this change, as I agree that the new name is more appropriate and inclusive and a better choice for UCR.

Date: January 27, 2017

To: CHASS Executive Committee

From: Milagros Peña, Dean



Re: Department Name Change: Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages

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Riverside, CA 92521
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I write to express my agreement with the reasoning provided by Thomas Scanlon, Chair of the Department of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages, in his memo dated January 9, 2017, to Dylan Rodriguez, Chair of the Academic Senate, to change the name of the *Department of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages* to the *Department of Comparative Literature and Languages*.

The Chair provides three reasons:

- The inclusion of "foreign" in the current name is inappropriate and outdated, against the spirit of inclusiveness of the Department (and I would add the campus) at UCR.
- The use of "comparative" is still more than appropriate, for "comparative literature" best names and foregrounds the graduate program and the national and international strengths of the faculty and graduate students.
- The use of "languages" is still more than appropriate, as all of the languages other than Spanish are housed and taught through the Department.

I find these reasons persuasive and recommend allowing the Department to change its name to the *Department of Comparative Literatures and Languages*.

cc: Dylan Rodriguez, Thomas Scanlon, Peter Graham.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92521-0132

March 17, 2017

TO: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Academic Senate

FROM: Kate Sweeny, Acting Chair
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Name Change for the Department of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages

The CHASS Executive Committee discussed the request to change the name for the Department of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages to the Department of Comparative Literature and Languages at the regular meeting on March 1, 2017 and via email. There were no objections and the committee approved the proposal.


Kate Sweeny, Acting Chair

CHASS Executive Committee

January 9, 2017

TO: Dylan Rodriguez
Chair of the Academic Senate

VIA: Milagros Peña
Dean, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences

FROM: Thomas Scanlon 
Chair, Department of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages

RE: Change of the Department Name for Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages

The Department of Department of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages hereby proposes change of the department name to "Department of Comparative Literature and Languages." The background and reasons for this request are as follows.

1. BACKGROUND. On December 12, 2014, the department faculty voted to approve the following motion: "Department Name Change. It is proposed that the department drop the word 'foreign' from its title and changing the name to Comparative Literature and Languages." The matter was discussed again during a departmental retreat on November 15, 2015. The interval before presently moving forward on this important change was partly to make sure all were on board with the change after we added three new Senate faculty in fall 2015, and partly due simply to the press of other department matters. Faculty reiterated their support for this change after being polled in November 2016. We therefore support this change as strongly as ever and look forward to its expeditious implementation.

Faculty were in total agreement that the term "foreign" is not only inappropriate and outdated, but against the spirit of inclusiveness in the department and at UCR. The term is also at odds with our departmental vision of the new, transnational realities of literature, language, and culture. As our recent self-statement for our forthcoming graduate review describes it, "We are a graduate program in the humanities without an 'us' or 'them' as our methodological, thematic and pedagogical perspective is, by virtue of our field and by institutional necessity, global." Our undergraduate programs may seem to be more "nationally" focused on, e.g., France or China, but the literatures and cultures of

each national language are, clearly, not restricted to single nations or peoples, but are globally inclusive, e.g., of Francophone studies, Chinese diaspora, and individual identities that are increasingly less rooted in one nation or tradition. In short, we are in strong agreement that “foreign” no longer belongs in our department name.

2. WHY COMPARATIVE LITERATURE? We considered alternatives like “World (or Global) Literatures and Languages,” but these fail to foreground our graduate program. Comparative Literature is the one program to which all Senate faculty belong, the area that unites much of our different research and teaching interests, and the one that signals our national and international reputation. We actively recruit students nationally and internationally: of our twenty or so current graduate students, about 50% are international. Our department name very usefully highlights the graduate program.

3. WHY LANGUAGES? The inclusion of “Languages” not only communicates to the students where these languages are taught, it signifies the prominence of elementary and advanced language study in our curriculum to serve four groups. First, and most widely, our languages serve the CHASS language requirement. Secondly, we offer ten undergraduate major areas, namely Chinese, Classical Studies, Comparative Ancient Civilizations, Comparative Literature, French, German, Japanese, Language, Linguistics, and Russian. Thirdly, we offer minors in the major areas, as well as minors in Arabic (as part of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies minor), Italian, and Korean. And finally the languages also serve graduate students in our own and other graduate programs in CHASS and across campus. In our own graduate and undergraduate curricula, it is crucial to have substantial training in the original languages, in advanced texts, and in the study of language in and of itself. To exclude the “language” rubric from the department name would not authentically reflect this important part of our mission.

The proposed new name accurately reflects the two crucial aspects of the departmental mission--two different yet complementary functions within our department.