Memorandum

To: University Senate

From: Kay N. Wolf, Chair
Council on Academic Affairs

Date: February 8, 2012

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GREEK AND LATIN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

WHEREAS the Department has had the name Greek and Latin since 1996, when the former Department of Classics merged with the Program in Modern Greek, and when, nationally, other departments that experienced similar mergers, also changed their names; and

WHEREAS the term Greek and Latin does not adequately describe the academic unit as a scholarly community – it is not primarily a language department but one where the study of ancient languages provides access to the broader area of Greco-Roman antiquity; and

WHEREAS the current Department name is confusing to prospective students who assume the Department may in some way be lacking in the area of classical studies or classics; and

WHEREAS the names of the current undergraduate and graduate degree programs will not change; and

WHEREAS the proposal has the unanimous support of the Department faculty, and of the leadership of the College of Arts and Sciences; and

WHEREAS the proposal was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on January 4, 2012.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate approve the proposal to change the name of the Department of Greek and Latin to the Department of Classics, and respectfully request concurrence from the Board of Trustees.
December 5, 2011

W. Randy Smith
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
200 Bricker Hall
CAMPUS

Dear Randy,

The Department of Greek and Latin has submitted a request for a name change from its current title of Department of Greek and Latin to Department of Classics.

All undergraduate and graduate program names will remain the same, the only change comes in the form of the name of the department.

On behalf of the Department of Greek and Latin, I am submitting the following:

- Letter of request for the name change from Benjamin Acosta-Hughes, Professor and Departmental Chair
- Enclosure outlining the name change
- Jointly signed supporting letter from Joe Steinmetz, Executive Dean, College of Arts and Sciences and Mark Shanda, Dean, Arts and Humanities

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email me at 292-5727 or williams.1415@osu.edu.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposal,

Valerie Williams, Professor of Dance
Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Arts and Humanities

CC: Ben Acosta-Hughes, Professor and Chair, Department of Greek and Latin
Mark Shanda, Dean, Arts and Humanities
Garett Heysel, Assistant Dean, Arts and Humanities
October 10, 2011

Proposal for Academic Unit Name Change
Submitted by Benjamin Acosta-Hughes, Professor and Chair

Current Name: Department of Greek and Latin
Proposed Name: Classics Department

Rationale for Name Change:

The faculty in the Department of Greek and Latin voted unanimously on September 30, 2011, to change our name back to the Department of Classics. This does not affect the degrees we grant, as, following conventional national usage, our degrees are already entitled The Master of Arts in Greek and Latin, The Master of Arts in Modern Greek, The Doctor of Philosophy in Greek and Latin, and The Doctor of Philosophy in Modern Greek. The Book 3 listings in Classics, Greek, Latin and Modern Greek will remain as they are. Our undergraduate majors in Classics (with specializations in: Classical Humanities, Greek Language, Latin Language and Greek and Latin Language), Ancient History and Classics, and Modern Greek, and our undergraduate minors in Classical Humanities (specializations in Greek Civilization and Roman Civilization), Classical Greek, Latin and Modern Greek, will all retain their current titles.

The name of the department was changed in 1996 Greek and Latin to reflect the merging of the former Classics department with the Program in Modern Greek: at that time many departments that were making similar mergers with programs in Modern Greek sought new titles that would better reflect the new departmental composite, most without long-term success. The same is true of us, the term ‘Greek and Latin’, resonant of older preparatory school divisions, does not adequately describe us as a scholarly community. Ours is not primarily a language department, but a department where the study of ancient languages is the means of access to the much larger canvas of Greco-Roman Antiquity. While the inclusion of Modern Greek results from the unusual relationship of Ancient and Modern Greek, a relationship that we highlight in our new web site and our PR materials, the change of department title has not served us well, and is a distraction for prospective graduate students, who, encountering the idiosyncratic title of the OSU department, assume that the department must in some way be lacking in the areas that constitute Classical Studies or Classics.
We therefore respectfully request that the department return to its earlier nomenclature: Department of Classics. The faculty, including the faculty in Modern Greek, have come to understand that this is the better option for all of us.

Respectfully,

Benjamin Acosta-Hughes
Professor and Chair
Name Changes in Arts and Humanities

Current: Department of Greek and Latin
Proposed: Department of Classics

Degree Names:
All undergrad degree names remain the same:
BA in Ancient History and Classics
BA in Classics: Concentration in Classical Greek
BA in Classics: Concentration in Greek and Latin
BA in Classics: Concentration in Classical Humanities
BA in Classics: Concentration in Latin
BA in Modern Greek
Minor in Modern Greek
Minor in Classical Greek
Minor in Classical Humanities
Minor in Latin

All Graduate degree names remain the same:
Master of Arts in Greek and Latin
Master of Arts in Modern Greek
PhD in Greek and Latin
PhD in Modern Greek

All Book 3 Listings remain the same
December 5, 2011

W. Randy Smith
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
203 Bricker Hall
190 North Oval Mall
CAMPUS

Dear Randy,

The name change for the Department of Greek and Latin to the Department of Classics has our full support.

The change in the department name is unaccompanied by any undergraduate or graduate program name changes, and therefore, the only request is for a change in the departmental name.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

Joseph E. Steinmetz  
Executive Dean and Vice Provost  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience

Mark W. Shanda  
Divisional Dean, Arts and Humanities  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Professor of Theatre