

M e m o r a n d u m

To: University Senate
From: Maria Coyle, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs
Subject: Proposal to Change the Name of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures to the Department of Near Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures
Date: March 9, 2022

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Whereas South Asia represents one fifth of the world's population and the South Asian diaspora in the United State warrants study and academic representation; and the Department is the home for South Asian Studies - the South Asian Studies minor and Hindi language; and

Whereas a departmental home for South Asian studies will contribute to the University's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion; enhance ongoing efforts by the Multicultural Center's APIDA (Asian, Pacific Islander, and Desi American) student initiatives; and contribute to the Office of International Affairs' efforts to facilitate academic collaboration between the University and the South Asian region ; and

Whereas the change will bring the department more in line with comparable departments, increase the visibility of research and teaching of South Asian Studies and Near East Studies; improve the visibility to students; increase enrollments; enhance fundraising opportunities, and further the missions of both the department and the University; and

Whereas the proposal will not require any programmatic change, there will be no impact on core faculty, students or staff, and no administrative changes are anticipated; and the proposal has the full support of the Department and of the College of Arts and Sciences; and

Whereas the proposal was reviewed and approved by a subcommittee and then by the full Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on February 2, 2022; and

Therefore be it resolved that the University Senate approve the proposal to change the name of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures to the Department of Near Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures and respectfully requests approval by the Board of Trustees.