

Academic Unit Title Change Request: Center for Slavic and East European Studies

The Ohio State University Center for Slavic and East European Studies (CSEES) was established in 1965 to promote the study of Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Russia, and Southeastern Europe. This interdisciplinary center is housed in the Office of International Affairs. Curricular offerings include an MA program in Slavic and East European Studies and a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in East European and Eurasian Studies, as well as a mid-career professional MA track and a program offering a dual degree in Slavic and East European studies and public administration with the John Glenn College of Public Affairs.

At Ohio State, CSEES seeds faculty positions and courses, sponsors lectures and conferences, brings visiting specialists from the region to campus, administers a Slavic and East European studies MA program, provides monies for library acquisitions, and awards FLAS fellowships to OSU undergraduate and graduate students. CSEES' outreach beyond OSU includes teacher workshops, presentations at local schools, partner programs with other higher education institutions, and area studies conferences.

East European and Eurasian area studies at OSU is facilitated by the presence of approximately 90 area specialist faculty members who teach over 250 different courses in languages and area studies. Ohio State regularly offers instruction in seven East European/Eurasian languages: Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Modern Greek, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Modern Turkish, and Uzbek. Occasional language offerings include Czech, Hungarian, Old Church Slavonic, and Yiddish.

Each year CSEES organizes dozens of lectures, conferences, and events on campus and/or virtually. In addition, through its robust outreach program, CSEES works collaboratively with minority-serving institutions (Howard University, Fort Lewis College) and K-12 educators throughout the state of Ohio to share its decades of knowledge and leadership in the field of Slavic and East European studies and to promote access to interdisciplinary area studies. In the past four years, CSEES has brought more than \$2.9 million of external grants into the university. Through its Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship program, the largest at OSU with \$1.39 million in funding, CSEES on average awards 22 FLAS Fellowships annually to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from many programs across Arts and Sciences as well as other colleges.

I. RATIONALE

An interdisciplinary leader at Ohio State, CSEES sees its mission as advancing teaching, learning, and research about the dozens of countries within the larger Central European, Eastern European, Southeast European and Eurasian regions. Since its establishment, CSEES has developed active affiliations with more than 90 faculty members. However, in the 21st century, CSEES's teaching and research mission has expanded to include nine affiliate faculty with research and teaching that covers the region of Central Asia. Ohio State began offering the Uzbek language in 2003 through the then Consortium on

Institutional Cooperation Courseshare program, with courses taught by Indiana University and Ohio State students enrolled via distance learning technology. As a result of the growth of the program, since 2007, Ohio State has continuously offered the language on its campus with its own Uzbek language instructors and now offers the courses to other institutions within the Big Ten Academic Alliance. To date 182 students have benefitted from this language curriculum, 18 master's theses and PhD dissertations have been written about the region, 46 FLAS Fellowships have been awarded for a Eurasian language since 2003, and graduates have gone on to take up Fulbright grants in Eurasia, secure academic positions related to the region, and work in government and non-profits utilizing their expertise in Eurasian business and markets, diaspora and migrants, environmental issues, folklore, government, the health sector, history, linguistics, literature, and political economy. (For courses and faculty members with Central Asian content and interests see Appendices 1 and 2.)

With this in mind, CSEES would like to request a name change to the Center for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. The new name will reflect our commitment to Central Asia as well as to Eurasia more broadly (including the Caucasus region as well as the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). In addition, this name change will reflect a national understanding of the importance of these post-Soviet states and bring Ohio State in line with the majority of our peer institutions who have already made this adjustment (see Appendix 3). Of 14 peer centers that we have identified, 11 have included the word Eurasian in their titles, two include Central Asian, and one has a separate National Resource Center devoted to Inner Asian and Uralic in addition to a Russian and East European Institute. While CSEES feels somewhat cumbersome, the new name will reflect the commitments of the Center and parallels one of our main interdisciplinary professional organizations, ASEES, the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, which effected that name change in 2010.

II. Faculty and Other Support

At the November 12, 2020 meeting of the CSEES Advisory Council, the name change was discussed at length, with variants, pros and cons considered. The Advisory Council unanimously agreed to request a name change from Center for Slavic and East European Studies to Center for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. In an email exchange with our federal officer we also ascertained that this name change will have no ill effect on our federal grants and programs. In addition, with the recent financial contribution from the Uzbek government via the Embassy of Uzbekistan to the United States, which will help facilitate the continued offering of Uzbek language and furthers Ohio State's relationship and future partnership opportunities with the country and region, we have outside support to reflect our regional commitments in our Center's name as well.

III. Program Title Changes

The Center would like to see the MA degree title, as well as the MA conferred in conjunction with the dual degree program in public administration and mid-career track,

change to Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. The title of the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in East European and Eurasian Studies will remain the same.

IV. Letters of Support from Related Units

Letters were received from the following colleges: ASC, GLENN, MORITZ, FISHER, and FAES. Each of these letters was supportive but omitted for brevity for the senate materials. They are available upon request.

Appendix 1: Ohio State Courses with Eurasian Content

1. Contemporary Issues in the Middle East
2. Culture and Politics in Central Asia
3. Ethnographics of Dance and Performance: Non-Western Dance Forms from a Global Perspective
4. Exploring Water Issues
5. Films of the Middle East
6. Graduate Readings in Power, Culture, and State
7. The History of Afghanistan
8. Intellectual and Social Movements of the Muslim World
9. Introduction to Islam
10. Introduction to the Modern Middle East
11. Islamic Central Asia
12. Islam, Politics, and Security
13. Islamic Law and Society
14. Islamic Revival and Social Justice: Utopian Ideals and Lived Realities
15. Literature and Culture of the Islamic World
16. Mongol World Empire: Central Eurasia 1000 – 1500
17. Ottoman Empire: 1300 – 1800
18. Ottoman Manuscript Cultures
19. Readings in Islamic History
20. Readings in Russian, East European, and Eurasian History
21. Seminar in the History of the Islamic World
22. The Silk Road: Commerce and Culture in Eurasia
23. Studies in Islamic History
24. Studies in Ottoman and Turkish History
25. Water: A Human History
26. Women in the Modern Middle East

Appendix 2: OSU Faculty Cohort with Eurasian Research Interests

Kamola Azimova, Uzbek language lecturer, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Nicholas Breyfogle, Associate Professor, Department of History

Morgan Liu, Associate Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Scott Levi, Professor and Chair, Department of History

Jane Hathaway, Professor, Department of History

David Hoffmann, Professor, Department of History

Rafiq Islam, Senior Research Scientist, College of Food, Ag, and Environmental Science

Allan Lines, Professor Emeritus, College of Food, Ag, and Environmental Science

Alam Payind, Director, Middle East Studies Center

Appendix 3: Peer Institutions with Similar Centers

Arizona State University: Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies

Columbia University: Harriman Institute for Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies

Georgetown University: Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies

Harvard University: Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies

Indiana University: Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center & Russian and East European Institute (two separate centers)

Stanford University: Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

University of California, Berkeley: Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center

University of Kansas: Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

University of Michigan: Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill: The Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies

University of Pittsburgh: Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

University of Washington: Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies

University of Wisconsin-Madison: Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asian Studies