

Department of
Philosophy

Thomas Harriot College
of Arts and Sciences

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TO: John Sutherland, Interim Dean, Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

FROM: George Bailey, Chairperson, Department of Philosophy 

DATE: November 13, 2013

SUBJECT: Recommendation to change the name of the Department of Philosophy to "Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies".

College name: Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Old department name: Department of Philosophy

Proposed department name: " Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Rationale for Change: On September 9, 2013, a majority of the permanently tenured faculty members in the Department of Philosophy voted to change the name of the department to "the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies." No other change in the department's institutional location, CIP Code, or operations is being proposed.

The Department of Philosophy has, for many decades, included faculty members with disciplinary expertise in Religious Studies. Since 2003, the number of faculty members from Religious Studies has increased from one to four. Religious Studies faculty members make a substantial contribution to the research, teaching, and service missions of the department. It has long been felt that the efforts of the Religious Studies faculty members would be even more impactful if the name of the department accurately reflected the composition of the department.

The interdisciplinary Religious Studies Program will continue to operate as it does now, with a director and an interdisciplinary committee that guide it. The program will continue to graduate majors and minors through the Multidisciplinary Studies Program. The Religious Studies Program will continue to report directly to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Note that the ECU policy governing names changes to code units is contained in Part IV of the Faculty Manual. I have attached the relevant portions of the policy. Note especially that all tenured faculty in the unit vote on name changes to a code unit, including the unit administrator. Consequently, the unit


administrator does not indicate separately concurrence or non-concurrence with the unit's recommendation.

Note also that the policy says that within 10 working days the next higher administrator will communicate in writing to the Code Unit Proposal Committee and to the appropriate vice-chancellor(s) the following items: the unit faculty's action and his or her concurrence or non-concurrence with that action.

Dr. Derek Maher is chair of the department's Code Unit Proposal Committee.

I concur with the request to change the name of the Department of Philosophy to "Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies."

I do not concur with the request to change the name of the Department of Philosophy to "Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies."

Signed:  Date: 2013-11-14
Professor John Sutherland, Interim Dean, Harriot College of Arts and Sciences