



COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING AND REVIEW

17-18 CAPR 1
October 12, 2017

TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning Review (CAPR)
SUBJECT: 17-18 CAPR 1: Department of Philosophy Name Change Request
PURPOSE: For Action by the Senate
ACTION REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve the request for Philosophy's name change request

BACKGROUND:

At CAPR's October 12, 2017 meeting, the committee reviewed and approved the request for the Philosophy department to change its name to the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Other units have been consulted and there are no resource implications. There were no objections from CAPR regarding the request; approved unanimously.

The request was also reviewed and accepted as information by CIC on 10/2/17.

Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

oA. Request for Approval of Formation, Dissolution, Name Change or Merger of Academic Units

General Catalog Information

Please see [Formation, Dissolution, Name Change or Merger of Academic Units Policy](#)

**Current
Department/Unit
Name***

Department of Philosophy

**Type of Change
Requested:***

Formation Dissolution Name Change Merger New Unit

Name:* Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

**Proposed
Effective Date of
the Change:*** Fall 2018

CRITERIA OR REASON FOR THIS ACTION

A. Mission of the Academic Unit:

**How does the
proposed
name/unit more
clearly fit the
mission of the
academic unit?***

The department has long offered courses in both Philosophy and Religious Studies. The department used to offer both a Minor and an Option in Religious Studies. The department hired, with the support and recommendation of a previous departmental review, an expert in Religious Studies in 2008. The fields of Philosophy and Religious Studies are closely related, often sharing departmental resources as is done at East Bay. Adding the words "Religious Studies" will more accurately reflect the work that has been done, is being done, and will continue to be done in our department. This change will be of primary benefit to students seeking instruction in Religious Studies but who are unable to find our courses for lack of direction. The name change will also benefit the university as a whole in making it clear that there is no lacuna in terms of Religious Studies expertise at our campus.

**Does the change
reflect a change
in the unit's
mission?***

No, the mission remains the same but the name adjustment more accurately reflects the current and ongoing mission of the department.

B. Curricular Implications:

Does the new name/unit reflect past changes in curriculum?*

Yes, the name change reflects the curriculum as it has been, with additional curricular developments since the hiring of the department's specialist in Religious Studies in 2008.

Does it reflect plans for future curriculum changes?*

No, the name change simply reflects the curriculum as it has been, is currently, and will continue to be delivered.

Do any planned changes impinge on other academic units?*

No. In fact, we have received broad support for the name change from across the campus.

Which other units have been consulted?*

All affected academic departments and programs at CSUEB were consulted and there were no objections.

What are the plans for avoiding unnecessary duplication?*

There is currently no duplication across either our own program or that of other departments. Religious Studies is almost exclusively offered in the Philosophy Department, and those few courses that might be considered a fit with Religious Studies exist in departments with which we maintain strong dialogue on the topic (especially HIST, ES, and AGES).

C. Effect on the University:

How will the new name/unit assist students in finding the program they need?*

Students often express surprise at discovering that the university does indeed offer courses in Religious Studies through the Philosophy department since until now there has been no formal designation indicating that such coursework exists at our campus. The name change will make it obvious to anyone that Religious Studies is available at CSUEB and that Philosophy is the home for such programming.

How does the new name/unit make clear the differences between the academic unit and others in the University?*

The name more accurately reflects what the department already offers and allows students, faculty, and the community at large to identify the core faculty with specialization in Religious Studies.

What are the resource/cost implications of the change?*

None.

Will there be any effect on retention, promotion, and tenure policies?*

No.

For formation/merger how will the unit head be determined?*

NA

D. Comparisons:

What names are used for comparable academic units in other Universities in the CSU System and nationwide?*

There is no consistency across the system. The title Philosophy and Religious Studies is used by at least one other CSU institution, and is common across the country. Several CSU institutions have no offerings in Religious Studies. Among those that do, the following variations appear:

The following (6) institutions have departments dedicated solely to Religious Studies or Comparative Religion: CSU Northridge; Humboldt; CSU Long Beach; San Diego; CSU Fullerton; San Jose;

The following (5) institutions have some minor offerings included within a Philosophy department: CSU Dominguez Hills; CSU Fresno; CalPoly; SF State (BA Philosophy and Religion); San Luis Obispo

The following (4) institutions include Religious Studies alongside another discipline:

CSU Chico (Comparative Religion and Humanities)

Sac State (Humanities and Religious Studies)

Sonoma (Interdisciplinary Studies)

CSU Bakersfield (Philosophy and Religious Studies)