

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION: Senate

TEL

FROM: Peter Keller, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP



RE: Program Name Change of the Asia-Canada Program (SCUP 17-42)

DATE: December 11, 2017

TIME

At its December 6, 2017 meeting, SCUP reviewed and approved the program name change from Asia-Canada to Global Asia within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2018.

Motion:

That Senate approve and recommend to Senate the program name change from Asia-Canada to Global Asia within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2018.

c: T. Kawasaki
J. Matsumura



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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate Committee on University Priorities
FROM Wade Parkhouse, Chair
Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies
RE: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SCUS 17- 47a(2))

DATE November 10, 2017
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Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of November 9, 2017, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion

That SCUP approve the program name change from Asia-Canada to Global Asia within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.

RENAMING OF PROGRAM

MOTION 1

That SCUS change the name of the Asia-Canada Program to Global Asia Program effective Fall 2018

Rationale:

After suspending admissions to the ACP in December 2016, at the invitation of the Asia Canada Steering Committee, the FASS Dean's Office undertook consultations to develop an updated revision to the program, reflecting changes in the field, acquisition of new faculty and student interest. Unlike the ACP and programs in other institutions in British Columbia, the revised minor promotes an inter/intra-regional approach to the investigation of Asia, which offers students opportunities to examine Asia in the global context, Asian emigration, and North American Asian communities within a single, structured course of study. Fundamentally a revision of the ACP, the revised minor nevertheless needs to be renamed to better alert students of its broader regional focus, which is essential for promoting recruitment.

Background:

The University of Victoria's Department of Pacific and Asian Studies and the University of British Columbia's Department of Asian Studies are aptly named in that their function as Asian area studies programs is clearly indicated. The Department of Asian Studies, for example, offers a major in Asian Language and Culture that permits students to specialize on China, Japan, or Korea, but, maintaining a distinction between area studies and ethnic studies, does not offer a major or minor in Asian Canadian and Asian migration studies, which is a separate program at UBC. SFU's Asia-Canada Program (ACP) was equally effective in informing students of its focus on connections between Asia and contemporary Canadian society.

Unlike the ACP and programs in other institutions in British Columbia, the revised minor promotes an inter/intra-regional approach to the investigation of Asia, which offers students opportunities to examine Asia, Asian emigration, and North American Asian communities within a single, structured course of study. Fundamentally a revision of the ACP, the minor nevertheless needs to be renamed to better alert students of its focus, and the following names were evaluated:

- InterAsian Studies
- Comparative Asian Studies
- Asia and the World
- Global Asian Studies
- Asian Connections
- Asian and TransPacific Studies

Some of the aspirations behind the minor are eloquently and precisely described in an online write-up for the Social Science Research Council's InterAsia Program, which was launched in 2008. The minor similarly challenges students to "move beyond the territorial fixities of area-studies research without discounting the importance of contextually grounded, place-based knowledge" by offering a reconceptualization of Asia that highlights its global connections.¹ InterAsian Studies would seem to be an accurate name for the proposed program. However, individuals with extensive experience working with students on course selection, such as undergraduate studies advisors, have expressed reservations about names or terms that may seem unfamiliar, observing that more than few individuals shy away from enrolling in courses or participating in programs that seem too "theoretical." Experts on Asia at SFU have thereby expressed a preference for Global Asian Studies, Asia the World, and Asian Connections, and the decision has been made to go with Global Asia for reasons that one expert has articulated below:

¹ <https://www.ssrc.org/programs/view/interasia-program/>

Appendix to Memo from Dr. Catherine Murray – October 11, 2017

“inter-Asia” and “transpacific” are terms rooted in specific theoretical frameworks that are emergent (and thus still evolving). For example, there is still no consensus whether it should be “transpacific” or “Trans-Pacific” and each way of writing the term has a different set of intellectual and political justifications. Also, both transpacific and inter-Asia as fields of study are grounded in political debates that might introduce unnecessary tension into the minor which, rightly so, involves a much wider range of intellectual frameworks and political orientations. “Global Asia” is a more capacious and inclusive term that accommodates transpacific, inter-asia, diasporic, as well as area- and nation-based frameworks. It is able to describe the current configuration of the minor (which includes courses using both national and trans-regional frameworks) more accurately. Also, speaking pragmatically and from a branding perspective, it is simpler and more readily understood by undergraduates and potential employers.

In its meeting on September 6, 2017, the majority of participants voted in favour of “Global Asia Program” (GAP).