

## MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION: Senate

TEL

FROM: Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost *pro tem*, and Chair, SCUP

RE: Name Change of the Department of First Nations Studies (SCUP 19-39)

DATE: December 9, 2019

TIME

At its December 4, 2019 meeting, SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal to change the name of the Department of First Nations Studies to the Department of Indigenous Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**Motion:**

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the name change of the Department of First Nations Studies to the Department of Indigenous Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

c: R. Reimer  
C. Murray



OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

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MEMORANDUM

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ATTENTION	Senate Committee on University Priorities	DATE	November 8, 2019
FROM	Wade Parkhouse, Chair	PAGES	1/1
	Senate Committee on Undergraduate		
RE:	Studies		
	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SCUS 19-60)		

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Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of November 7, 2019, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the name change of the Department of First Nations Studies to the Department of Indigenous Studies, within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.



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**MEMORANDUM**

<b>ATTENTION</b>	Dr. Jane Pulkingham, Dean of FASS cc: Dr. Catherine Murray, Associate Dean	<b>DATE</b>	18 April 2019
<b>FROM</b>	Dr. Deanna Reder, Chair FNST	<b>PAGES</b>	1
<b>RE:</b>	First Nations Studies (FNST) request and rationale for name change to Indigenous Studies (INDG)		

**Discussion:** When the first SFU program with Indigenous content was founded in Kamloops in 1993 (to then be expanded on Burnaby mountain in 1998), the community suggested **First Nations Studies**. This name was a departure from the names of other long-standing programs across the country, such a **Native Studies** at Trent University, **Indian Studies** at the Saskatchewan Federated Indian College, and **Native American Studies** at the University of Lethbridge.<sup>1</sup> At the time, the term “First Nations” was seen as preferable to the other options because it resonated with decisions by such bodies as the Canadian National Indian Brotherhood to change its name in the 1980s to the Assembly of First Nations. “First Nations” implied cultural and political sovereignty and a rejection of names imposed by the State.

At the time, typical Canadians would not have immediately recognized that the term “First Nations” is exclusive, as it does not include Métis or Inuit people. Faculty in this Department recognize that this is the time to adopt a name that is more inclusive, reflective of diversity, and recognized internationally. We suggest that our name be changed to **Indigenous Studies (INDG)**.

**Description of Process:** On 5 March 2019, during a Faculty meeting for the Department of FNST, we discussed changing our name. After quick deliberation on the possibilities we decided, unanimously and by consensus, that the new name be Indigenous Studies.

Shortly thereafter, the office distributed a confidential websurvey to all permanent and limited faculty to officially approve the name change, including one permanent faculty member currently on medical leave. After a reminder on 20 March 2019, 9 of the 10 members of FNST voted by the following day, 21 March 2019. Nobody on faculty expressed any opposition to a name change and during our following Faculty meeting, on Tuesday, 2 April 2019 the results were announced to general approval. There was no further discussion on the matter.

**Decision:** In an unopposed motion, we wish to proceed to change our name from First Nations Studies to **Indigenous Studies**, with the acronym FNST to be changed to **INDG**.

We request that the Dean of FASS forward our change of name to SCUP and Senate for consideration and approval.

<sup>1</sup> All three have now changed the names of their departments to Indigenous Studies.

MEMO

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ATTENTION CATHERINE MURRAY, ASSOCIATE DEAN, FASS &  
CHAIR, FASSUCC

FROM Rudy Reimer, Acting Chair, Department of First Nations  
Studies

cc. Phil Cunningham, FNST Manager

RE: Change of Acronym FNST to INDG

4 October 2019

The Department of First Nations Studies would like to change the course acronym from First Nations Studies (FNST) to Indigenous Studies (INDG) to reflect updated terminology in our field.

**Discussion:** When the first SFU program with Indigenous content was founded in Kamloops in 1993 (to then be expanded on Burnaby mountain in 1998), the community suggested **First Nations Studies**. This name was a departure from the names of other long-standing programs across the country, such as a **Native Studies** at Trent University, **Indian Studies** at the Saskatchewan Federated Indian College, and **Native American Studies** at the University of Lethbridge. At the time, the term “First Nations” was preferable to the other options because it resonated with decisions by such bodies as the Canadian National Indian Brotherhood, to change its name in the 1980s to the Assembly of First Nations. “First Nations” implied cultural and political sovereignty and a rejection of names imposed by the State.

At the time, typical Canadians would not have immediately recognized that the term “First Nations” is exclusive, as it does not include Métis or Inuit people. Faculty in this Department recognize that this is the time to adopt a name that is more inclusive, reflective of diversity, and recognized internationally. We suggest that our name be changed to **Indigenous Studies (INDG)**.

Motion 1:

That SCUS approve the creation of the new acronym INDG (Indigenous Studies) effective Fall 2020.

Motion 2:

That SCUS change the course acronym from FNST to INDG for all FNST courses and related pre-requisite and course description changes effective Fall 2020.

Attached is a list of our undergraduate courses with the required editorial changes noted.

Thank you,



Rudy Reimer, Acting Chair, Department of First Nations Studies