

College of Arts and Sciences

## **Proposed Departmental Status and Name Change**

**Current name: *Philosophy and Liberal Studies***

**Proposed name: *Department of Philosophy and Liberal Studies***

**Proposed Changes to be effective July 1, 2015**

This name change is proposed to most accurately reflect the current scope and status of the unit, which houses two degrees: B.A. in Philosophy, and B.A. in Liberal Studies, a minor in philosophy, and several interdisciplinary minors. As the area coordinator points out, not only has the unit increased in size and scope, but functionally in all respects but name it operates as a department, thus it seems an appropriate time to designate it as such.

For the most part, approved name changes would require electronic edits on websites, catalogs, etc. at the cost of editorial time. Brochures, posters, stationery and business cards would be updated. These are updated on a regular basis in any case. The costs for these updates would be borne by the departments.

The request, below is for a name change only. I would add to this request: if the unit is granted department status, the coordinator title now held by Dr. Manian should change to department chair. As with the name change, this would come at no additional cost other than some brochures and business cards. For several years now, because of the size and scope of her responsibilities, Dr. Manian's compensation has been assigned at the level of a department chair, as if she were a chair. Dr. Manian has one of the three 10-month with summer stipend administrative contract arrangements in the college. The other two are department chairs.

I recommend approval.

Kenneth J. Procter

Dean

College of Arts and Sciences.

### **Proposed change from *Philosophy and Liberal Studies* to *Department of Philosophy and Liberal Studies***

Philosophy and Liberal Studies are at the very core of a Liberal Arts education. Given GC's designation as the Georgia's Public Liberal Arts institution, highlighting the Philosophy and Liberal Studies [PALS] program as a department would underscore that commitment. Since its inception in 2012, the PALS unit has been at the forefront of diversifying GC's faculty and student body, thereby promoting our administration's commitment to increasing diversity. Recognizing PALS as a department will help the institution showcase this diversity more clearly.

The program already functions as a department for all practical purposes. With the two permanent hires this year, PALS will be a unit of 8 permanent faculty and has an administrative assistant. We have IFR and T&P documents for the PALS unit. The University Senate recognizes PALS as an independent unit, and we have a Senator. PALS is also represented on various committees requiring departmental appointments such as the Curriculum and Instruction Committee and the Dean's Advisory Council.

The faculty in PALS report to the coordinator, who has all the responsibilities of a chair, and who in turn reports to the Dean of COAS. The coordinator of PALS represents PALS within COAS in the same way as department chairs, including voting on important issues pertaining to COAS.

For all the reasons outlined above, the time has come to designate PALS as a department.

Dr. Sunita Manian  
Coordinator  
Philosophy and Liberal Studies

Faculty and Staff in PALS