

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents
December 17, 2009

SUBJECT: Center for Russian and East European Studies

ACTIONS REQUESTED: Rename as the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2010

The dean and the executive committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, with the endorsement of the International Institute, requests approval to rename the Center for Russian and East European Studies (CREES) as the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, effective January 1, 2010.


Following an external review recommendation and a poll of all CREES faculty associates, the CREES Executive Committee unanimously voted to change the center's name to reflect their geographic and regional focus in scholarship, teaching, and outreach. The national area studies organization, the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), recently concluded a formal discussion and voted to change its name to the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Many peer national resource centers have made similar switches.


Since its inception nearly fifty years ago, the center has been a world-class location for Russian studies and that emphasis remains unchanged. With its growing strength in East European studies, the Center for Russian Studies was first renamed in January 1967 as CREES. Since then faculty, students, and events on the Caucasus have made Michigan a premier destination for the study of that area, and more recently we have expanded into the cultures, histories, and languages of Central Asia. Because of the rich legacy of CREES and a practical awareness of its excellent name recognition, the faculty and executive committee have decided to leave the acronym "CREES" unchanged. "East European" would retain one of the E's with the other becoming "Eurasian."

The executive committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts has approved the recommendation that the Center for Russian and East European Studies be renamed as the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, effective January 1, 2010.

Recommended by:

Recommendation endorsed by:


Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
Professor of History and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts


Teresa A. Sullivan, Provost and
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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