Unit/College/School:  
Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, College of Liberal Arts, St. Cloud State University

Current Name: Department of Foreign Languages and Literature

Requested New Name: Department of Languages and Cultures

Rationale for Requested Name Change (attach documentation, if needed):
The rational for the change is two-fold: First, we wish to remove the word "Foreign" because it is often viewed as having negative connotations for students and our external stakeholders. We want to change "Literature" to "Cultures" because it better reflects both teaching standards required by the Minnesota Board of Teaching for the accreditation of our BS programs, and the updated educational outcomes desired by today's students.

National, regional and MnSCU trend  
The removal of the word "Foreign" has already taken place at most universities across the country. The use of Languages and Cultures (or some variation such as "World" or "Modern" Languages and Cultures) is one of the most common variations today for similar departments. Within the MnSCU system the two largest institutions after SCSU are Mankato and Moorhead. Mankato is now named World Languages and Cultures and Moorhead is "Languages and Cultures". Across the country the trend is similar.

Better align department name with student interests and Board of Teaching Standards  
Besides the removal of the "Foreign" from our name we wish to replace the current word "Literature" with "Cultures". This change reflects both our students' professional interests and the teaching standards of the Minnesota State Board of Teaching standards for teachers of World Languages.

Board of Teaching Standards  
According to the document entitled "World Language Standards: A Model for Use in Setting Local Standards" published by the Minnesota Department of Education, these are the five Primary Goals for a World Language curriculum:  
Goal One: Communicate in Languages Other than English  
Goal Two: Gain knowledge and Understanding of Other Cultures  
Goal Three: Connect with Other Disciplines and Acquire Information  
Goal Four: Develop Insight into the Nature of Language and Culture  
Goal Five: Participate in Multilingual Communities at Home and Around the World

Furthermore, the Teaching Standards used for the Professional Education Program Evaluation Report (PEPER II) accreditation evaluation of our programs
uses the "Languages and Cultures" terminology extensively. I have included copies of the PEPER II document and the World Languages Standards" document with the references to "Culture) highlighted.

**Student professional interests**
The change from "Literature" to "Cultures" is also part of a national trend of de-emphasizing literature as the non-linguistic course backbone of university language curriculums. This reflects not only changing access to non-literary sources of authentic cultural material, but the professional interests of our students as well. Today students typically combine the study of a language program with another major. For practically all of these students knowledge and understanding of culture aligns much better with their future professional interests than does the study of literature and literary theory.

**Describe process used by unit and college/school to approve name change (include documentation such as meeting minutes if available):**

In Spring 2011 the Department sent a request for name change to the University Curriculum Committee but the process got bogged down in the signature gathering phase and then we were told that Name Change is no longer the purview of the UCC, but, rather, the Strategic Planning Committee. Now we are pursuing the change through the new channel. This time we began the formal process on 8/29/12 when I sent an email to all units on campus we could think of (Ethnic Studies, Sociology and Anthropology, English and Global Studies) who would potentially be concerned about the proposed change. Since that time I have discussed the issue informally with all the Chairs of all the departments listed and I have met formally with Beth Berila (Ethnic and Women's Studies on 9/4/12) and the TESL section of the English Department (on 9/25/12). I would categorize the general concern of all the parties as centering on the use of the word "Cultures". The most specific concern was offered by the TESL faculty. They were concerned that potential students might think that TESL programs would be in a department with our proposed new name. It is true some TESL programs are administered within departments with some version of "Languages and Cultures" in the name. However, it is by no means a key factor in the selection of the name "Languages and Cultures". Indeed, our closest peer institution, MSU-Mankato, has its TESL program in the English department rather than its World Languages and Cultures Department. TESL is housed in the Languages and Cultures Department at MSU- Moorhead.

We understand the general concern of our use of the word "Cultures" in our new department name, but we have assured all that this by no means an attempt to claim any sort of "ownership" of the term in any sense. For us, the understanding of a language is intricately intertwined with the understanding of the culture that surrounds it. For that reason, with the exception of our 110 courses and cross-listed, interdisciplinary offerings, all our courses are taught in the target language rather than in English and the SLOs revolve around gaining proficiency in both the target language and the culture of that language. That factor immediately differentiates our curricula from other curricula at SCSU that also examine "culture". In the final analysis we want to change our name and
use the word "culture" instead of "literature" because "language" and "culture" are the
twin foci of both our curricula and learner outcomes that our students want to achieve.

Describe minority opinion within the department/unit (attach additional documenta
tion, if available):
As a department we have been discussing our name change for several years. The
reorganization slowed down our request for a variety of reasons. By far the two most
popular options were "Languages and Cultures" and "World Languages and Cultures"
and in the end a strong majority of the faculty voted for "Languages and Cultures" and
minority opinion was not strongly against the preferred option. We preferred to not use
the word "World" because it was superfluous and essentially added nothing meaningful
to the name. Furthermore, in practical terms it would put our programs at the end any
directory or list of SCSU programs.

We rejected another option, "Modern Languages and Cultures" because it excludes Latin,
which we have taught at points in the past and could again in the future if there were
interest for it.
Required Signatures:

Unit representative (i.e., chair, director): Mike Acke
(Representative will be asked to attend SPC meeting to discuss request.)

☑ Recommend  ☐ Do not Recommend
Comment: This is a good idea that will help our programs.

Dean (if applicable): [Signature]  Date: 1/24/13

☑ Recommend  ☐ Do not Recommend
Comment: Dept. consulted other CA Depts. & programs; evidence used to support the request; good strategic move.

Strategic Planning Committee Co-chair: [Signature]  Date: 2/21/13

☑ Recommend  ☐ Do not Recommend
SPC Motion: The SPC supports & recommends this name change request be approved.

Provost or Appropriate Vice President: [Signature]  Date: 3/14/13
(Following SPC recommendation)

☑ Recommend  ☐ Do not Recommend
Comment:

President: [Signature]  Date: 3/6/13

☑ Approve  ☐ Do not Approve
Comment:

Upon final determination, copies should be sent to:
Requesting unit
Appropriate Dean or Vice President
Human Resources
Academic Affairs
Administrative Affairs
Strategy, Planning & Effectiveness
Records & Registration