

Smith, Randy

From: Zacher, Chris
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2010 1:11 PM
To: 'hobgood.1@osu.edu'; Smith, Randy
Subject: name change request

Jay Hobgood and William R. Smith
Co-chairs, Council on Academic Affairs

Dear Jay and Randy:

I write to request CAA's approval for changing the name of the Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities, which I direct, to the Humanities Institute. Let me give the reasons for this requested change.

When the Institute was formed, in 1997, it seemed important to its founders (and the CAA committee that approved it) to give it a name that explicitly stated the dual purpose of the Institute. Since then, that dual purpose has become well enough known to the Institute's participants and audiences that it's no longer needed as a definition of purpose. At the same time, most people have come to informally refer to the Institute by the shorter, less explicit two-word name, the Humanities Institute. That also is the simpler, universal name that most humanities institutes across the country use, and using it will make us more easily recognizable to our peers. The two-word name also puts the humanities first, as the current name does not, and I believe our communications and publicity, on and off campus, will improve as a result of that changed emphasis.

I have asked Dean of Arts and Humanities John Roberts (to whom I report), Todd Slaughter (a faculty member who sits on the Institute's Oversight Committee), and John Davidson (a faculty member who co-directs one of our Institute working groups) to write you in support of our requested name change. The Institute's Oversight Committee also supports the name change.

Thanks for considering our request.

Yours,

Christian Zacher, Director and
Professor of English

Smith, Randy

From: Davidson, John [davidson.92@osu.edu]
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2010 2:43 PM
To: Smith, Randy; Hobgood, Jay
Cc: Zacher, Chris
Subject: Humanities INstitute

Jay Hobgood and William R. Smith
Co-chairs, Council on Academic Affairs

Dear Jay and Randy:

I write to CAA in support of the request to change the name of the "Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities" to the "Humanities Institute." As a current co-director of one ICRPH working group and an active member of one other group supported there, I feel this is one of the most vibrant and important centers of cross-disciplinary research and exchange in the OSU orbit. It seems to adhere to an important precept, namely that "An advanced civilization must not limit its efforts to science and technology alone, but must give full value and support to the other great branches of scholarly and cultural activity in order to achieve a better understanding of the past, a better analysis of the present, and a better view of the future." These words, taken from the founding legislation of the NEH from 1965, encapsulate well the mission that I perceive in the Institute to help develop a full and diverse understanding of "human environments" in all their natural and social complexities. This has been identifiable in all of the work supported by the Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities.

Unfortunately, the current name, while perhaps intended to be thoroughly descriptive of the Institute's activities, actually serves as something of an impediment to advertising the breadth and vitality of the programs there. This longer title neither enlightens scholars outside of OSU whom one wants to bring to visit nor identifies an institution or location to those within OSU with whom one wants to interact; however, both groups respond immediately and with comprehension to the follow-up information that events are happening under the auspices of the "Humanities Institute." While it seems a small thing, the change to a simpler, two-word title will aid in spreading word of the important work fostered by the Institute and encouraging further interaction between scholars of various disciplines throughout OSU and beyond. Thus, I heartily support the name change to the "Humanities Institute" and urge the oversight committee to enact it at the earliest possibility.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further service in this regard.

Yours,

John E. Davidson, Director
OSU Film Studies Program
Associate Professor in Germanic L&L

9/3/2010

Smith, Randy

From: Todd W Slaughter [slaughter@columbus.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2010 11:30 AM
To: <Smith.70@osu.edu>
Cc: Zacher, Chris
Subject: name change for the Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities

Professors Hobgood and Smith,

I am a member of the Oversight Committee of the Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities, and I am writing in support of changing the Institute's name.

The members of this committee present at a spring meeting discussed and voted unanimously in favor of changing the Institute's name. We feel that the shorter, simpler name of Humanities Institute would be useful in communicating the Institute's sponsorships and collaborations and would more clearly identify the Institute to other institutes in the country.

Sincerely,

Todd Slaughter

Todd Slaughter, Professor
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Smith, Randy

From: Zacher, Chris
Sent: Friday, July 09, 2010 10:07 AM
To: Smith, Randy
Subject: FW: Institute name change request

From: Shanda, Mark [mailto:shanda.1@osu.edu]
Sent: Friday, July 09, 2010 9:43 AM
To: Zacher, Chris
Cc: Hood, Linda
Subject: Re: Institute name change request

I write today to lend my support to your effort to change the name of the Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities to the Humanities Institute. You are absolutely correct that most faculty refer to this unit already as the Humanities Institute. In fact, I didn't know it had this longer name until I saw it on the list of reporting units that I have in my new role as Interim Dean.

If this e-mail support doesn't provide you enough traction to assist you in achieving your goal, I will gladly write a more formal plea on letterhead should that prove necessary. Just let me know.

I wish you well in this noble endeavor.

Mark

Mark Shanda
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On 7/8/10 10:31 AM, "Zacher, Chris" <zacher.1@osu.edu> wrote:

Jay Hobgood and William R. Smith
Co-chairs, Council on Academic Affairs

9/3/2010