Proposal to change name of degree program in the School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI

Current name - International Studies Program

Proposed change - Global and International Studies Program

On May 8, 2013, the degree program’s seven-person advisory board voted unanimously to subtly change the name of this interdisciplinary program established in 2006. The program offers both the minor and major to undergraduates through the School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. The name change will not affect the INTL we use as our CIP Code to distinguish our course listings. The three primary reasons for the change are as follows:

1) The new title better represents the program’s objectives, its course offerings, and the scholarly expertise of its faculty contributors. Many of our courses address issues related to relations between nation-states or to inter-governmental organization, and therefore international affairs is a key component of our expected learning outcomes. But even more of our courses use an interdisciplinary approach to examine broader global trends in fields like cross-cultural interactions, economic development, public health, migration studies, and globalization.

2) The new name will decrease the sense of overlap with other programs or disciplines of study. Adopting the new title will minimize a student tendency to confuse International Studies with International Relations, a sub-field in the discipline of Political Science. It will also distinguish our program from the International Studies track offered to majors in the Kelley School of Business (http://kelley.iupui.edu/degrees/undergrad/academics/majors/international-studies/). The name change will hopefully serve to better market our minor to students from other schools across campus. (A significant proportion of our minors do in fact come from schools other than Liberal Arts.)

3) The name change also brings our program in line with broader national and IU system trends. Journals and conferences in the field now predominantly feature the global more than the international while many leading interdisciplinary programs utilize this title that better captures the dual nature of the field. Moreover, the newest school in the IU system is the Bloomington-based School of Global and International Studies (SGIS). It remains unclear what IUPUI’s relation to this well-endowed initiative will be but bringing our program’s name in line with this new school may facilitate future collaboration and
(hopefully) the sharing of resources.

A fourth reason to adopt the name change emerged when we announced the possibility to our student majors. Five of our best students who we recently invited to the monthly meeting of the Indianapolis Committee on Foreign Relations commented on how much they appreciated the possible name change. Several noted that the original name sounds to some like a general studies program, until they explained to their friends or families the nature of our specialized major. They all agree that the name feels more appropriate and adds a greater sense of value and prestige to their hard-earned degree.

**Program Director:**
Michael Snodgrass, History, School of Liberal Arts, IUPUI

**Advisory Board:**
Marta Anton, World Languages and Cultures, School of Liberal Arts, IUPUI
Tijen Demirel-Pegg, International Studies & Political Science, School of Liberal Arts, IUPUI
Gil Latz, IUPUI Associate Vice Chancellor for International Affairs; Geography, IUPUI
Stephanie Leslie, Direct of Study Abroad, Office of International Affairs, IUPUI
(Zachary Vavra attended the May 2013 on Ms. Leslie’s behalf.)
Steve Tuchman (Community Representative), Attorney, Lewis & Kappes; Honorary Consul for Denmark in Indiana and Kentucky
Wendy Vogt, Anthropology, School of Liberal Arts, IUPUI