



UNC  
COLLEGE OF  
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

205 SOUTH BUILDING  
CAMPUS BOX 3100  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3100

T 919.962.1165  
F 919.962.2408  
college.unc.edu

August 21, 2014

Dear Administrative Board,

I am writing to endorse my support regarding the proposal before you to change the name from "Department of Romance Languages and Literatures" to "Department of Romance Studies."

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Terry E. Rhodes, Senior Associate Dean  
Fine Arts and Humanities



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DEPARTMENT OF  
ROMANCE LANGUAGES

238 DEY HALL  
CAMPUS BOX 3170  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3170

T 919.962.2062  
F 919.962.5457  
[www.unc.edu/depts/roml](http://www.unc.edu/depts/roml)

September 16, 2014

Dear Dean Gil:

As suggested by our Senior Associate Dean Terry Rhodes, I am writing in order to seek your approval of a proposed name change for our Department.

During the April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Faculty Meeting, the Romance Languages faculty approved the proposal to change our name from “Department of Romance Languages and Literatures” to “Department of Romance Studies.”

The new name reflects both the current trend in the profession and our faculty's teaching methods and research interests. The shift from “Romance Languages and Literatures” to “Romance Studies” has been undertaken recently at peer institutions such as Duke University, Cornell University, Brandeis University, Boston University; other universities already have departments of Romance Studies, and Harvard is about to change as well.

The proposed change addresses changes in the profession, where Romance Studies departments have attempted to break down traditional barriers in scholarship between the various Romance languages through interdisciplinary and comparative work. These departments differ from Romance language departments in that they place a heavier emphasis on connections between language and literature, on one hand, and culture and history on the other.

What “Romance Studies” captures is a key strength of our faculty, comprised as it is of faculty who apply a variety of approaches – historical, linguistic, philological, socio-political, cultural, visual, and theoretical – to the teaching and study of languages and literary and nonliterary texts and cultures of Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Americas.

After becoming Chair, I consulted with several colleagues about this topic and I realized that the time had come to formalize and showcase the new nature of our academic work, by introducing a Department name able to describe the contemporary focus of our faculty.

We are also convinced that this new name will demonstrate an integrated and innovative faculty, and also make us more competitive in recruitment.

Because of all these reasons, the faculty – both tenure-track and fixed-term – enthusiastically approved this name change.

I now hope that this proposed change meets your approval and I look forward to hearing your comments and advice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Federico Luisetti".

Federico Luisetti