

MEMORANDUM

TO: Provost Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D.
CC: Dean Christopher P. Long, Ph.D.
FROM: The Steering Committee
SUBJECT: WRAC Department Name Change [Item 2223-02]
DATE: September 6, 2022

In response to your May 25, 2022 letter seeking advice on the proposal to change the name of the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures to the “Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Cultures,” the Steering Committee has determined that no additional academic governance consultation is required.

Section 3.4.2.4. of the *Bylaws for Academic Governance* reads, “The Steering Committee shall advise the Provost regarding the appropriate faculty, academic, and student governance bodies, if any, to consult on proposals for establishment, moratorium, discontinuance, or merger of basic academic units, including departments, schools, institutes, colleges, and the Graduate School.” While changing the name of a department does not technically constitute the “establishment, moratorium, discontinuance, or merger” of the department, the Steering Committee appreciates your request for advice and sought to determine “the appropriate faculty, academic, and student governance bodies, if any, to consult.”

Given the relatively minor nature of the proposed change, the department-level and college-level support for the amendment, and the detailed rationale underlying the proposal, the Steering Committee does not believe any further consultation with academic governance bodies is necessary.

Please reach out to Secretary for Academic Governance Tyler Silvestri at (517) 355-2337 or acadgov@msu.edu if you have any questions.