

January 14, 2008

Provost Peter Lange  
220 Allen Building  
Duke University

Dear Peter:

I forward to you the request from the Department of Asian and African Languages that the unit's name be changed to the Department of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies.

Leo Ching, the department chair, presents the argument for making this change. Gregson and I endorse the request. We also note that we do not intend to abandon the teaching of African languages. We believe, however, that teaching these languages would be more appropriately carried out in the Program in African and African American Studies. We will work with the evolving leadership in that unit to pay appropriate attention to this issue.

I request that you forward this request to the appropriate consulting bodies and, if approved, eventually to the Board of Trustees. If you need more information as the process unfolds, please let me know.

Sincerely,

George L. McLendon

GLM:jns

Enclosure

cc: Dean N. Gregson G. Davis