

## PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE OF STATUS FROM CENTER TO PROGRAM

Proposed effective date: May 1, 2020 or earlier

Center for Translation Studies  
School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics, College of LAS  
Joyce Tolliver, Director  
February 26, 2020

### BACKGROUND:

The Center for Translation Studies (CTS) was established in 2008, funded by a seed grant from the Office of the Provost. In 2011, the Illinois Board of Higher Education granted it temporary status as a Center; and in 2013, CTS inaugurated its self-supporting Masters' degree program in Translation and Interpreting.

In May 2017, the CTS Director was notified that the temporary Center status had expired. Because of recent turnover in CTS directorship, the University opted to request a Reasonable and Moderate Extension of the temporary status. That extension was granted, and it is due to expire on May 31, 2020. We must now decide whether the Center should be closed; and if not, whether permanent Center status is appropriate. The Center's proposal is that Translation Studies not seek permanent status as a Center, but that it continue to operate as a Program.

### JUSTIFICATION:

#### I. Translation Studies does not conform to the definition of a Center:

According to the [policy](#) published on the Provost's website, "*Centers* are typically units of research or public service situated within a college, school or department."

Since its inception, Translation Studies has been defined as a teaching unit, not as a unit of research or public service. It offers an MA, an Undergraduate Certificate, a Graduate Certificate, and a General Education course (TRST 201). CTS currently employs two full-time Lecturers (Reynaldo Pagura and Kara Warburton) and one Senior Lecturer (Patricia Phillips Batoma), whose sole appointments are in CTS. Lecturer Honaidah Ahyad and AP Robert Jenkins each hold 50% appointments in the unit. CTS regularly provides buy-out funds to the Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures to free one of its Lecturers, Roman Ivashkiv, to teach two courses per year for CTS. In addition, in August 2019, CTS hired its first full-time Academic Programs Advisor to provide advising and to spearhead recruitment to our MA program.

The mission of CTS has long been misaligned with the role of Centers in the University. The Provost's policy stipulates that [centers] "may not offer majors or degree programs without establishing a partnership with an academic unit." Yet CTS has been granting MA degrees since 2015, without benefit of a partnership with any other academic unit in the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics.

In addition, the denomination of “Center” for our MA-granting unit creates some confusion in the context of U.S. higher education institutions, since translation or interpreting centers tend to operate as interdisciplinary hubs that provide translation or interpreting services to the rest of the university or to the community. (See, for instance, the National Center for Interpretation at the University of Arizona, or the Translation Center at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.)

## **II. Translation Studies as an academic unit should be retained:**

### **A. Translation Studies has made significant contributions to the UI and is financially robust:**

The 15 members of the inaugural class of the MA program in Translation and Interpreting graduated less than five years ago, in 2015. Since then, 53 more MA students have graduated, and there are another 36 students currently enrolled. In its first five years (2015-2020), the CTS MA program will have produced over 75 MA graduates. No tuition-waiving assistantships were granted to any of these students, and the great majority of them paid full tuition. Our MA graduates have gone on to translation and interpreting careers in branches of the U.S. government, or as full-time medical or court interpreters, translation editors and project managers, full-time free-lance technical translators, university-level instructors of translation studies, and as published literary translators.

In addition, Translation Studies has served other units on our campus by offering Undergraduate and Graduate Certificates at no cost to the units or to the students. Since its inception in 2010, CTS has granted 95 Certificates. These Certificates are quite rigorous: the Undergraduate Certificate requires 18 hours of credit, while the Graduate Certificate requires 20.<sup>1</sup> Both undergraduate and graduate Certificate alumni have found employment in the translation industry on the strength of their coursework with us, whether as translation project managers, as published literary translators, or in other venues.

Since its creation, and particularly since 2015, TS has played a role in the academic mission of the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics. not only by making its Certificate programs available to students seeking undergraduate or graduate degrees in other SLCL units, but also through the structure of mutual support it has enjoyed with our sister units. All units in the School are represented among the CTS Affiliate Faculty, and tenure-track affiliate faculty members are involved in the governance of the Center, through their roles as elected members of the CTS Advisory Committee. Nearly half (9/20) of the courses in our curricula are cross-listed with other SLCL units, which illustrates our interdisciplinary nature while also benefitting the enrollment profiles of the controlling units.

CTS affiliates and graduate students from other SLCL units support Translation Studies by offering their expertise on translation choices our students make as part of their coursework, when the CTS faculty do not have a particular language pair in their linguistic repertoire. Colleagues from other units have even agreed to direct individualized capstone projects for our

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<sup>1</sup> The Certificate programs, while very successful, have never been regularized by LAS. Should CTS be reclassified as a Program, we will propose that the Graduate Certificate be revised and offered as a Graduate Minor, and that a revised version of the Undergraduate Certificate be formally approved.

MA and Certificate students. Whenever faculty members or graduate students support CTS in these ways, CTS provides financial compensation, whether in the form of graduate assistantships, Service in Excess funding, or a contribution to the individual research account.

Translation Studies also contributes to the campus's undergraduate teaching mission by regularly offering TRST 201 (Introduction to Translation Studies), which allows students to complete a General Education requirement in Humanities-Literature and the Arts.

Translation Studies' Certificate programs and its General Education course are funded by the revenue generated by its MA program. Thanks to the success of this self-supporting program, the unit is not just financially stable, but thriving. In November 2019, Translation Studies accounts showed a positive balance of over \$600,000.00. Once the 2018-2019 tuition true-up is completed, we expect that balance to increase.

Given the proven academic success of Translation Studies, and its remarkable financial efficiency, there is every reason for the university to maintain the unit. The only question is what its administrative status should be, once its temporary status as Center expires.

B. Reclassification as a Program would regularize the status of Translation Studies as an academic unit, and make its operations more transparent.

Currently, the Center is listed in the Gray Book and other records only as an administrative unit of SLCL; there is no independent organization code for Translation Studies. This obscures the source of the MA and other credentials that Translation Studies offers. Since all employees of Translation Studies are listed in the Gray Book only as employees of SLCL, the false impression is created that faculty members in CTS have no academic home unit, thus disenfranchising them from campus-wide shared governance rights.

### **III. Translation Studies functions neither as a Department nor as a Center, but as a Program:**

A. The structure and academic mission of Translation Studies do not align with the Statutory provision that Departments hold tenure lines:

According to the University of Illinois *Statutes*, the department is "the primary unit of education and administration within the University" and "[i]t is established for the purpose of carrying on programs of instruction, research, and public service in a particular field of knowledge" (Article IV, Section 1a). Translation Studies does carry out such programs. But in one important way, Translation Studies does not meet the definition of a department. According to the *Statutes*, the faculty of a department are composed of those in the tenure stream (Article II, Section 3 a). Translation Studies holds no tenure lines, and there are no immediate plans to change this structure.

B. The structure and academic mission of Translation Studies do align with those of several campus Programs:

Not all units of education, administration, and outreach on this campus are organized as departments. There are also at least five units that are organized as Programs, several of which offer academic degrees and employ full-time faculty members with 100% appointments in the unit. While neither the *Statutes* nor the campus policy guides specify a definition of “Program,” from a consideration of the characteristics that campus Programs share, we can deduce that programs:

- a) may offer degree programs;
- b) may make full-time faculty appointments (even if these lines are in the specialized categories);
- c) have an essentially interdisciplinary nature.

Translation Studies fits this profile comfortably.

#### **BUDGETARY AND CURRICULAR IMPLICATIONS:**

We are not proposing any change in the hiring or funding model of the unit, nor would the change in status incur any expense. While we plan to propose some changes to the curricula later this semester, these changes are unrelated to the request for a reclassification as Program, and were planned before we discovered that the Center status would expire in May.

We see no need to change the TRST rubric for Banner course listings, since it does not reference the Center status. In sum, aside from the name change and the creation of an organizational code, no other changes are being proposed.

Original version submitted by Joyce Tolliver, CTS Director, Feb. 26, 2020  
[Revised by L. Elena Delgado, SLCL Director, March 31, 2020]

## CTS PROPOSAL

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In May 2017, the CTS Director was notified that the temporary Center status had expired. Because of recent turnover in CTS directorship, the University opted to request a Reasonable and Moderate Extension of the temporary status. That extension was granted, and it is due to expire on May 31, 2020. A decision must be made whether the Center should be closed; and if not, whether permanent Center status is appropriate. The Center now proposes to seek permanent status as a Program, rather than a Center (see-attached document for justification of change of status).

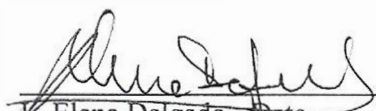
The Director of Translation Studies (Joyce Tolliver) proposes that its status as a temporary Center be allowed to expire on May 30 of this year; and that, before that date, the unit be reclassified as a Program within the College of LAS.

In order to more accurately reflect the inclusion of interpreting studies in the unit's curricula, the name of the new Program would be **Program in Translation and Interpreting Studies**.

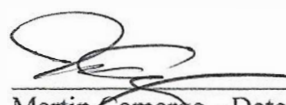
The proposal has been reviewed at the School and College levels.

### APPROVALS:

Director, School of Literatures,  
Cultures, and Linguistics

 4/2/20  
E. Elena Delgado - Date

Associate Dean for Humanities  
And Interdisciplinary Programs, LAS

 2 April 2020  
Martin Camargo - Date

Dean, College of LAS

 04/07/2020  
Feng Sheng Hu - Date



**OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & PROVOST**

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April 23, 2020

***Sent Via Email***

Professor Eric Meyer  
Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee

Dear Professor Meyer,

Attached is a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to rename the Center for Translation Studies and designate it as a program.

Sincerely,

*Kathryn A. Martensen*

Kathryn A. Martensen  
Assistant Provost for Educational Programs

Cc: W. Chodzko-Zajko  
J. Hart  
A. McKinney  
A. Edwards  
D. Forgacs  
E. Stuby