

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION – 1

NAME CHANGE OF EXISTING CERTIFICATE, DEGREE, MAJOR, OPTION OR ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT

(No change in curriculum, emphasis, or organizational structure)

1. Institution submitting request: University of Arkansas-Fayetteville
2. Contact person/title: Sharon Gaber, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
3. Phone number/e-mail address: (479) 575-2151 / sgaber@uark.edu
4. Proposed effective date: Fall 2014
5. Current title of degree/certificate program: Bachelor of Arts
6. Current title of major or option: International Relations
7. Current title of organizational unit: International Relations
8. Proposed name of certificate/degree:
9. Proposed name of major or option: International Studies, BA
10. Proposed name of organizational unit: International Studies
11. CIP Code: 45.0901
12. Degree Code: 1535
13. Reason for proposed action: The study of International Relations has existed on the University of Arkansas campus since the founding of the Fulbright Institute of International Relations in 1982. An academic major in International Relations has existed at the University of Arkansas since 1998. Throughout this time, International Relations has functioned as an interdisciplinary major, exploring international relations in the broadest sense of the word from a political, historical, economic, cultural, and societal perspective, in fulfillment of Senator Fulbright's vision of "teaching things in perspective." Traditionally, the term International Relations (in its interdisciplinary guise) has been interchangeable with the term International Studies. Over the past decade, however, the term International Relations has increasingly become used to signify the specific subfield of International Relations in the field of Political Science, with International Studies becoming the preferred term for the more interdisciplinary approach. For example, at the University of Mississippi the Croft Institute for International Studies was founded in 1997, with a similar curriculum for its International Studies major as Arkansas's International Relations major; the University of Oklahoma has recently launched a College of International Studies. Beyond the SEC, the University of Washington and the University of Denver each house a School of International Studies, and Stanford University runs the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

Many of our graduates seek entry into graduate programs within these schools (several IR majors over the past few years have matriculated into the University of Denver's International Studies program). Changing the program and major name from International Relations to International Studies brings the University of Arkansas into line with its peer and aspirant institutions, and is a better reflection of the nature of our major. It is also a move encouraged by the external reviewers who visited campus in October and November 2011 to assess all International and Area Studies

programs at the University of Arkansas, including the International Relations Program, and who strongly recommended that the International Relations major be renamed the International Studies major to avoid possible confusion with the Political Science subfield of International Relations.

Board of Trustees Approval Date:

Chief Academic Officer:

Date: