



January 6, 2010

Dear CREES faculty, students, friends, and partners:

In April 2009, CREES Faculty Associates considered (by poll) whether to modify the Center's name from "Center for Russian and East European Studies" to "Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies." Similarly, our national area-studies organization, the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) is changing its name this year to the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES); many of our peer U.S. Department of Education-supported National Resource Centers have taken similar decisions.

This local change, supported unanimously by the CREES Executive Committee and overwhelmingly in the April poll of CREES Faculty Associates, was meant better to reflect the Center's geographic and regional focus in scholarship, teaching, and outreach. Since its inception nearly fifty years ago CREES has been a world-class location for scholarship and teaching about Russia; its mission of course also included Eastern Europe, and that wider ambit was recognized with a new name (formally including Eastern Europe) in 1967. Since then our faculty, students, courses, and events on the Caucasus have made U-M into a premier destination for the study of that area as well; more recently we have also expanded into the cultures, histories, and languages of Central Asia.

Following subsequent approval by the University of Michigan's International Institute; the College of Literature, Science, and Arts; and the Board of Regents, **I am pleased to announce that effective immediately, we are the "Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies."** (We will keep the current acronym, "CREES.") **Similarly, our curricular name** — the title for our undergraduate concentration, as well as for the M.A. program and graduate certificate — **will henceforth be "Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies."**

With all best wishes for the semester and new year,

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