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### **Meeting with Vice-President for Student Affairs Linda Reimer**

We met with Linda Reimer on Monday. She was very clear that the name of the school is not going to be changed again. She promised to take care of the immediate issues (transcripts, website etc.) but did not offer a solution for the bigger problem. According to her there are “lots of discussions on a lot of things” at the university, for example on efforts to open up classes in one department to students in others, or the way faculty is appointed (e.g. joint appointments). These discussions, which may eventually lead to a restructuring of the school and, for example, could combine the graduate programs in one department (or not, there is really no specific direction this is going in) will take a long, long time. In the meantime:

#### **Diplomas:**

Our diplomas won't say General Studies; rather they will be handed out by the university. As you may know, right now the diploma does not specify the program you are in. You just get a M.A. or M.S. from The New School. That will hopefully be changed soon: the VP agrees with us that our diploma should say M.A. in International Affairs. We will follow this development very carefully and will keep you informed.

#### **Transcripts:**

Still a problem due to College Code, Registrar standards and computer issues. So for now a transcript still says General Studies – but they are working on it and we will keep reminding them.

#### **How the name was changed:**

There was a long consultation process among administration, trustees – and, according to Linda Reimer: faculty – that culminated in the spring in several meetings between administrators, deans and trustees. The deans were very involved in the whole process and it was up to them to inform departments and programs. The position of Dean at The New School was in transition (Linda Dunne started this summer), which may account for the poor communication to faculty and students in our division. Or it may be a convenient scapegoat, it's hard to say – nobody so far has taken responsibility for the name! The VP could not tell us whether any other names were on the table, but there was lots of debate about the new names (not only for our school). In the end an “institutional decision” was taken and the Board of Trustees approved the current names.

We could not pinpoint when exactly the decision has been taken and when it was announced (or how).

We will keep in touch with Linda Reimer and will also try to talk to the Provost about the future of our program. **This issue is too important to just let it go and we will continue our efforts to get rid of “General Studies”.**

Christina + Alex