

MEMORANDUM

REVISED

TO: President Edward T. Foote II

FROM: Steven Green  
Chair, Faculty Senate

DATE: January 19, 1999

SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Legislation #98002(B) – Approval of the Name  
for the “Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies”

The Faculty Senate, at its meeting on October 26, 1998, voted to approve the name for the “Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies”. This will be a named Center whose director will report to a committee of the Provost and the Deans of the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of International Studies. It is currently approved without academic programs, but such programs may be considered by the Senate and otherwise go through the normal approval procedures at a later time.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

SG/b

cc: Provost Luis Glaser  
Dean Kumble Subbaswamy, College of Arts and Sciences  
Dean Roger Kanet, School of International Studies  
Director Haim Shaked

9/20  
Stans  
✓ approved  
Kumble  
3/20

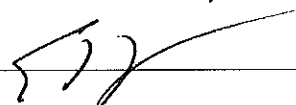


CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #98002(B) – Approval of the Name for the “Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies”

This will be a named Center without academic programs whose director will report to a committee of the Provost and the Deans of the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of International Studies. The purpose of the Center is to raise funds for endowed chairs, which will be located in appropriate academic departments. The Center will develop programs with the community and will be the sponsor of exchange programs for students and faculty.

RESPONSE BY THE PRESIDENT: Approve DATE: 9/20/99

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Provost

APPROVED: Yes 

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: \_\_\_\_\_

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): \_\_\_\_\_

leg # 98002

**UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY  
JUDAIC STUDIES**

**A VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

**Miami, October 26, 1998**

The University of Miami proposes to create a world class Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies (CCJS), which will provide an objective and in-depth exploration of the issues which have affected the Jewish people over the last 100 years.

Two motifs are interlaced and central to Jewish existence throughout the millennia: persecution and destruction on the one hand, and rebirth and redemption on the other. In the twentieth century, these two motifs have culminated in two cataclysmic waves -- the Holocaust and, in its wake, the creation of the State of Israel. From a nadir to a zenith, these momentous events define the Jewish experience in this century and provide the focus for the future academic and outreach activities of the new CCJS.

The CCJS will serve as a focus for encouraging the education of students of all faiths at the University of Miami and as a source of community programs that will link the South Florida community, primarily, but not exclusively, the Jewish community, with the University by way of a continuous, dynamic dialog.

The CCJS will link with the established undergraduate program in Judaic Studies to help it develop a more comprehensive, focused program that will reach many students, Judaic Studies majors as well as students [of all faiths] interested in various aspects of Judaic studies. At a later time, it is anticipated that the Center will facilitate expanding the undergraduate program into one that also offers graduate degrees -- an M.A. and a Ph.D. Any teaching program proposed as a consequence of the Center's activities will be developed by newly hired faculty in association with current programs and faculty and will be submitted for approval in accordance with the usual procedures.

In addition to its teaching programs, the CCJS will encourage and support--subject to available funding--academic research and publication activities.

In the public arena, the CCJS will provide to the South Florida community lectures, short courses, educational training and access to information about all aspects of the modern Jewish experience.

The CCJS will explore themes such as the modern literary and artistic expressions of the Jewish people, the relationship of the Jewish communities in the Diaspora with the State of Israel, Israel in the geopolitical setting of the Middle East, the contemporary spiritual and ideological movements that have defined Jewish life in the twentieth century, and the changing definition of "Jewish identity."

The CCJS will link together many parts of the University which have interests in Judaic studies, including primarily, but not exclusively, the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of International Studies. Within these, history, religion, sociology, literature, music and demography will be among the disciplines studied.

Dr. Haim Shaked, an experienced, tenured professor at the University of Miami will serve as Director of CCJS. He will be in charge of setting up the Center as well as the design of its vision for the future and the implementation of its activities. The academic functions of the Center, as they develop, will be guided by the Director and a committee consisting of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Dean of the School of International Studies and chaired by the Provost.

Maxine E. Schwartz, who brings over twenty-five years of experience as an active member of the local and national Jewish communal structure and who has been with the University of Miami's School of International Studies' Middle East Studies Institute since 1992, has been appointed Director of Development and Outreach.

Mitch Dabach has been appointed Assistant to the Director of CCJS. Mitch has been with the Middle East Studies Institute since 1988 and will serve CCJS as a research associate, office administrator and student coordinator.

### Goals

**The CCJS's main objectives are to:**

- Create a unique educational and research center of academic excellence focused on the contemporary Jewish experience, from the surge of European anti-Semitism and the birth of Zionism at the end of the 19th century, through the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel, to the present. To the best of our knowledge, no center focused on twentieth century world Jewry exists at the present time at any other institution of higher learning in North America.
- Be instrumental in providing a high quality, relevant educational experience to all students at the University of Miami, as well as to the South Florida community--focused on the greater Miami area but actually extending from Palm Beach to Homestead.
- Attract to the University of Miami energetic and established leaders in various areas of Jewish life and Judaic studies in order to create a system which is second to none in the study of the Jewish experience. Subject to available funds, new faculty will be recruited to provide leadership in the major areas of CCJS's work, well beyond anything currently available at the University of Miami. The appointment of new faculty members will be implemented in compliance with University of Miami rules and practices. Such new faculty members will be appointed in the relevant departments of the University which, according to normal procedures, will recommend the appointments to University administration including award of tenure, if merited.
- Support the acquisition and maintenance of relevant books, photographic and electronic sources of information to be widely available to both the University and the community at large for educational and scholarly work.
- Facilitate student and faculty exchange with Israeli universities in a variety of academic disciplines. The movement of students and faculty interested in Judaic Studies between the University of Miami and Israeli universities is important. For the students at the University of Miami, studying in Israel provides a unique understanding and interaction at the center of the Jewish people worldwide. For Israeli students, the ability to study for a period of time at the University of Miami in any of its many areas of excellence also provides a unique educational opportunity and the possibility to become directly acquainted with the United States and its people. Faculty exchanges enrich the individual academics as well as their home institutions.

- Develop a collection of written, photographic (including film and video) and electronic records relevant to the academic and outreach missions of the Center to supplement and greatly enhance the materials currently available at the University as a resource for students, scholars and members of the community.
- Conduct an ongoing dialog with the community on issues which are of major importance , and provide an academically sound forum and platform for their study, debate and discussion. Contribute to the shaping of the communal agenda locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Develop alliances for joint programming with relevant community organizations and facilities such as synagogues, day schools, Jewish community centers, the Central Agency for Jewish Education of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and the Ziff Jewish Museum of Florida.
- Provide a venue for interested adults such as rabbis, teachers and Jewish communal professionals to matriculate for advanced degrees in Judaic studies, once these degree-granting programs are developed and approved.

#### What Presently Exists at UM

- A Judaic Studies Program, under whose aegis a number of courses are taught annually. The program is a recognized major or minor in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Several courses focusing on Jewish literature, Jewish history, Jewish religion and the Holocaust under the auspices of several academic departments, mostly in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Sephardic Studies – Established in 1990 by the Judaic Studies Program with courses offered in Spanish and English, including Ladino. This program is the only one of its kind in the southeast United States.
- Each year the Judaic Studies Program publishes *Florida Jewish Demography*, an interdisciplinary newsletter.
- Jewish Life in Florida – Sponsored by the Judaic Studies Program, it is a comprehensive project tracing the history of Florida Jewry from the landing of the Spanish in 1513 to the present.
- Each year the Judaic Studies Program, in association with Temple Beth Or, hosts an Israel Film Series. The series brings together directors, actors and producers from Israel and is designed to serve the community.
- The Handleman Holocaust Collection, established in 1982 at the UM's Richter Library, represents a comprehensive gathering of books, documents, archives, pictures, and other available data pertaining to the Holocaust.

- A Holocaust awareness program for the broader University community. In 1997 it cooperated with the Holocaust Documentation Center in programming.
- A small but active and competitive student exchange program with Israeli universities.
- A Middle East Studies focus at the School of International Studies which has offered a concentration in this field to M.A. and Ph.D. candidates and a Middle East Studies Institute which actively provides outreach programs relevant to that region with a focus on Israel as a regional actor. It is to be noted that Professor Haim Shaked is the incumbent of the Dr. M. Lee Pearce Chair in Middle East Peace Studies, which would become part of the CCJS.

### What We Need

- A central organization to implement the goals of the CCJS and bring together existing programs under one umbrella. All academic programs will be developed in accordance with University of Miami procedures, and will be subject to the requisite approvals.
- Support for four endowed chairs to bring – in accordance with University of Miami procedures - senior faculty members of unquestionable prominence in [the following] areas such as:

Modern Jewish History - recognizing the importance of the Holocaust, not merely as an isolated event, but as a tragic centerpiece of the Jewish experience;

Modern Jewish Literature - in a variety of languages including works of fiction for their literary value as well as their contribution to our understanding of the Jewish community;

Sociology of the Contemporary Jewish Community - with emphasis on the dynamics of the organization and operation of the American Jewish community.

Israel Studies – understanding Israel, its role and interaction with its neighbors as well as its relationship with Diaspora Jewry.

The presence of the four senior academics who would occupy these chairs would make the University of Miami the premier institution for contemporary Judaic studies anywhere in this country and ensure that the University becomes and remains a leader in this field.

Visiting Professorships can also be endowed. These chairs would provide opportunities to bring world recognized scholars and writers to the University as visitors.

All faculty will have their primary appointments in relevant departments. The CCJS will thus serve to link University departments and schools/colleges.

### What It Would Cost

- To name the CCJS, to create the physical infrastructure to house the central activities of the Center (including meeting rooms, office space and educational equipment) and to provide for its administration \$ 5 million
  - Four endowed chairs as described above @ \$2 million per chair (In addition to permanent faculty, we also intend to endow several Visiting Professorships at \$1 million)\* \$ 8 million
  - A student exchange endowment to support carefully selected students of all denominations who wish to study in Israel or come from Israel to the University of Miami. \$ 2 million
  - An endowment to provide for the support of the Center's annual organizational and administrative infrastructure needed to support community educational programs, outreach activities and the acquisition of educational materials (including development of a research library). \$ 3 million
- TOTAL \$18 million\*\*("chai")

\* This amount would support a one semester visit.

\*\* An endowment, by University policy, allocates for academic spending 5% per year of the three year rolling average income of the corpus.

### Why at the University of Miami in South Florida

- The University of Miami has a deep commitment to cultural and ethnic diversity in its student body. The CCJS would provide special educational experiences to students from throughout the United States and 100 other countries. Sixteen percent of the UM's student body is Jewish.
- Existing interest in Judaic studies in the departments of history, geography, international studies, English and religion, and the unique Handleman Holocaust collection at the Richter Library, provide extraordinary groundwork on which to build such a center.
- Finally, the University of Miami is an integral part of the South Florida community which has the second largest concentration of Jewish residents in the U.S. and the third largest in the world (after Israel and greater New York). Thus, UM provides a unique setting for a quality Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies, as a resource for all of the students at the University as well as for the community.

One characteristic that distinguishes the University of Miami from many other institutions, is its strong linkage to and interaction with the community in which it resides. A center for Contemporary Judaic Studies would follow in this tradition.