

Recommendation of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature and the L&S Academic Planning and Governance Committee to Change the Name of the Foreign Languages and Literature Department to the Department of Ancient and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Recommendation:

That the L&S Faculty recommend to the Dean approval of the proposal to change the name of the Foreign Languages and Literature Department to the Department of Ancient and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Proposal to Change the Name of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature Department to the Department of Ancient and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Background:

The issue of name change arose initially when the department was approached by another language program that needed a department home, but did not find that the word “foreign” appropriately described its substance or mission. Discussion led to the word “foreign,” and whether or not it best reflected what the department represented. Aside from the consideration of other languages considering application to join our department, even languages currently in the department expressed that they were not exactly “foreign,” since they had become part of Wisconsin and the US now and in any case could be better expressed in other terms. Our department’s executive committee then began discussion of the need for a name change, which was followed by discussion within the full department.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, through multiple sessions of its executive committee and full department (and subcommittee) meetings, has arrived at a name that better represents the work of its nine different programs: Arabic, Classics (Ancient Greek and Latin), Chinese, German, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, Polish, and Russian. The one finally chosen and on which there is very strong unanimity and “buy in” is “Ancient and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.” The department faculty voted to approve the new name on

Rationale:

The new name better reflects the range of work done by the department’s nine programs. At the same time, it also reflects what that range of work being done is: language, with the concomitant and inseparable tasks of literature and culture. Since extensive attention is necessarily paid to both research in, and teaching through and about literature and culture, and since literature and culture cannot be

artificially separated from language or language instruction, the full name further proves assistive to the department's mission, but also to student awareness. The new name, then, better reflects both research and teaching *foci* and so better affirms the central task of each of our faculty and academic instructional staff.

Approved by the Faculty of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures on 10/8/2021

Approved by the Academic Planning and Governance Committee of the College of Letters & Science on 11/23/2021

Approved by the Faculty of the College of Letters & Science on 12/10/2021