College of Letters & Science Recommendation to Create A Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics

Recommendation

That the Department of Classics and Hebrew Studies, the Department of German, the Department of Slavic Languages, and the Department of Linguistics merge into a single department, the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics. The merger is to be configured on the basis of a plan for the organization, operating procedures and administration of the new department which will be developed and approved by the said departments. Operational implementation of the merger will begin upon final approval by the Chancellor (Expected by July 1, 1996), and will be completely in effect by July 1, 1997.

Background/rationale.

Many factors have contributed to this merger at this time. Some are related to reduced resources in the UW-System and L&S, with the concomitant reduction of faculty in most departments. The fall in L&S student enrollments also plays a role. The four departments to be merged have numerous points in common, including the nature of the languages they teach, the problems students have with inflected languages, and a shared interest in the interrelationship of language, literature and linguistics. Merger will result in a reduction of faculty time involved in administration with the corresponding freeing of former chairs for increased scholarly work and teaching. The unified department will make it administratively easier to respond to the proposed college-wide emphasis on internationalization.

Scope

The change proposed in this document merges departments administratively. It does not basically alter their academic programs, majors, minors, or curricula, which will continue in the merged department, only with central management. A mechanism will be developed for the maintenance of each academic area’s public identity as a program in the new Department.

The respective departments will continue to participate in College- and university-wide academic programs (e.g., the German Studies Certificate Program) with appropriate faculty representation of the language area on the governing committees. Similarly, liaison with the School of Education language-teaching programs is expected to continue to involve representation by language area as appropriate.

The present proposal does not change the administration of the Master of Arts in Foreign Language and Literaturé, which is a Faculty program (not a departmental program) with central coordination.

Membership/governance.

All the faculty and academic staff members of the source departments will be faculty and academic staff members of the merged Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics.

Approved by Letters & Science Faculty and Dean Marshall Goodman