RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND LINGUISTICS TO CHANGE ITS NAME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

The Faculty of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics recommends that the name of the Department be changed to the “Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics.”

Rationale:

The merging of foreign language departments took place in the spring semester, 1996. There had been discussion for several months, but the actual voting on merger took place in a rush so that the merger could be approved at the L&S faculty meeting in April, 1996. The approval of the wording of the faculty document and the formulation of the name of the department were done very quickly, and the department name, “Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics,” was a last-minute compromise, the formulation which was least objectionable to the members of the merging department at that time.

In the year since the original vote, the department faculty have had time to reconsider this issue. The proposed department name, "Foreign Languages and Linguistics," states more succinctly what the department does. "Foreign" in the new name makes it clearer to students what they can expect. "Literatures" has been removed because all foreign language departments also teach the literature of their respective areas. In addition, the name is considerably easier to pronounce.