

Proposal to the Senate Committee on Educational Policy

Proposal Title:

Transfer of the undergraduate minor in Italian, and the undergraduate major leading to the BALAS in Italian from the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese to the Department of French.

Sponsors:

Jean-Philippe Mathy, Professor and Interim Director, School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, jmathy@illinois.edu, 244-2727; José Ignacio Hualde, Professor and Acting Head, Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, jihualde@illinois.edu, 300-1288; Karen Fresco, Professor and Head, Department of French, kfresco@illinois.edu, 244-2727; Karen Carney, Associate Dean, College of LAS, kmcarney@illinois.edu, 333-1350

Brief Description:

The undergraduate major and minor in Italian are currently housed in the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. This proposal seeks to transfer these undergraduate programs—and the courses offered under the ITAL rubric—to the current Department of French.

Justification:

The common intellectual grounds of the French and Italian traditions and their past and present geopolitical, linguistic, and cultural affinities recommend a shared department for these two programs that have, over the course of many years, independently developed a strong focus on Europe, the continent where common French and Italian historical, linguistic and cultural ties are the most visible. For the most part, Italy and Spain do not share this dense network of historical connections. However, long lasting natural connections do unite Spanish and Portuguese, two primary languages of the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America. The existence of numerous departments of French and Italian across the U.S. testifies to the recognized validity of a French-Italian academic configuration (Stanford, USC, UC-Davis, UT-Austin, U of Wisconsin-Madison, Indiana University, U of Chicago, Northwestern, Princeton, Ohio State University, etc.). Similarly, most academic units specialized in Spanish in the United States tend to include both Spanish and Portuguese, but not Italian. The faculty of both units also discussed the idea of forming a single Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, but this was unanimously rejected by the faculty.

At the undergraduate level, there exist a number of courses that can ‘meet with’ or be cross-listed, allowing French and Italian to offset recent losses in faculty and enhance each program’s intellectual scope. The programs in French and Italian have already shared courses informally for a few years; the ‘Language and Minorities in Europe’ course (FR 418) was taught for the first time by faculty in Italian in Spring of 2013.

Undergraduates in Italian have used this course for several years to satisfy their advanced linguistics requirement, which has offset to some extent the loss of the Italian linguist. There are also contact points between the two programs in the areas of Early Modern/Renaissance Studies and Cinema Studies (e.g. FR 387, 389 and ITAL 470). Intellectual synergies and common cultural and historical traditions between French and Italian have found particular resonance in 2011 in the SLCL- and EUC-sponsored Mediterranean Studies initiative.

Students majoring and minoring in French and Italian were invited to a “town hall” style meeting on Tuesday, September 17, to have an opportunity to air their concerns and to ask faculty about the transfer of the Italian program; no substantive concerns were expressed.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.

Budgetary and Staff Implications:

Additional dollars and staff needed

The anticipated level of budgetary and staff support for the two newly-configured departments (the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Department of French and Italian) is not more than the level of support currently available for the two existing units (SIP and French). The same four language and literature programs will continue to exist (Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Italian) in their current organization. Funding for faculty and staff salaries, teaching assistantships, and other costs related to Italian, as well as gift funds specifically earmarked for Italian will be transferred from SIP to French, and the College of LAS will ensure that ICR funds are distributed appropriately between the two units.

Faculty reallocations (e.g., changes in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio)

Both the three tenure-line faculty lines and the two non-tenure track academic lines in Italian will be moved into the proposed Department of French and Italian. Undergraduate degrees will be administered by the proposed Department of French and Italian. No changes in the undergraduate majors or minors or the graduate programs offered by Italian or French are envisioned at the time of the transfer, but in both cases the proposed Department of French and Italian will pursue ways in which the transfer can be leveraged to benefit those programs, in particular by exploring areas of trans- and international focus, for example Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Film Studies, Mediterranean Studies, and Linguistics. No impact on class size, teaching loads, or faculty-to-student ratios is anticipated as a result of the transfer of the Italian undergraduate program.

Effects on course enrollments in other departments and implications of discussions with representatives of those departments

No adverse effects on course enrollments in other departments are anticipated. Faculty in Italian and French collaborate actively with other faculty and units in SLCL and across campus. Collaborations with the European Union Center have resulted in increased course enrollments and joint grant and course proposals (e.g., on minorities and the Mediterranean) in the last four or five years both in French and Italian; these collaborations will continue after the transfer is implemented.

Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.

No significant impact is anticipated. We see no need to change the Library structure and recommend the preservation of the current organization. The Dean of the Library does not foresee any changes to anticipated library resources.

CLEARANCES:

Signatures:



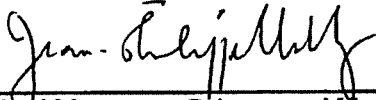
Spanish, Italian, Portuguese Representative:

Date:



French Representative:

Date:



School Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics Representative:

Date:



College Representative:

12/2/13

Date:

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

University Library
Office of Dean of Libraries
and University Librarian
230 Main Library, MC 522
1408 West Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801



October 16, 2013

Eleonora Stoppino and Zsuzsanna Fagyal
(c/o Dr. Stoppino)
Spanish, Italian & Portuguese
4080 FLB
M/C 176

Dear Drs. Stoppino and Fagyal:

Thank you for providing the University Library with the opportunity to review the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics' proposal to the Senate Committee on Educational Policy to Transfer of Italian studies faculty and associated non-tenure-track academic lines, and academic programs from the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese (SIP) to the Department of French, renaming the units to the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Department of French and Italian. Based upon the proposal that you submitted to the Library on October 16, 2013, we do not believe that there will be any substantive impact on existing library offerings—either in terms of library materials or personnel.

If additional services or materials are required as the program evolves, I have every confidence that we will be able to work together to meet the needs of the students.

Sincerely,

John P. Wilkin
Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson
Dean of Libraries and University Librarian

c: Paula Carns
Thomas Teper

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.14.19

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



December 13, 2013

Gay Miller, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to transfer the undergraduate minor in Italian and the undergraduate major leading to the BALAS in Italian from the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese to the Department of French. It now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristi A. Kuntz".

Kristi A. Kuntz
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: K. Carney
K. Fresco
J. Hualde
J. Mathy

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

DEC 03 2013

RECEIVED

Office of the Dean

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
294 Lincoln Hall
702 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801-3631



December 2, 2013

Kristi Kuntz
Assistant Provost
Swanlund Administration Building
MC-304

Dear Kristi:

The Committee on Courses and Curricula, Dean's Cabinet, Executive Committee, and the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has voted to approve the following proposals:

Transfer of the undergraduate minor in Italian, and the undergraduate major leading to the BALAS in Italian from the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese to the Department of French

Transfer of the MA and PhD in Italian from the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese to the Department of French

Transfer the administrative homes of faculty and associated non-tenure-track academic lines within the Italian program to the renamed Department of French and Italian

Rename the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese and the Department of French

The vote of the LAS Faculty took place on November 4, 2013 and was unanimous in favor of the transfer and renaming. The proposal to transfer the graduate degrees has been sent to the Graduate College but is also included here. Please let me know when we can schedule the public hearing.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Carney
Associate Dean

enclosures

C: Professor Jean-Philippe Mathy
Professor Jose Ignacio Hualde
Professor Karen Fresco

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics
Office of the Director
4088 Foreign Languages Building, MC 171
707 South Mathews Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801-3675
USA



October 10, 2013

Brian Ross, Interim Dean
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Dear Dean Ross,

Please find attached four proposals to transfer the program in Italian from the Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese (SIP) to the Department of French within the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics (SLCL). The four eligible voting members of the SLCL Executive Committee voted unanimously this morning to approve the four proposals. Two members of the Executive Committee recused themselves because they are faculty in SIP and French. I would like to note that the faculty of the two departments also voted unanimously in favor of the transfer of the Italian program to the French department. The four proposals eloquently make the intellectual and programmatic case for the transfer and SLCL fully supports it.

The results of the SLCL Executive Committee vote:

1. Proposal to transfer undergraduate programs: YES=4; NO=0; Recuse=2
2. Proposal to transfer graduate programs: YES=4; NO=0; Recuse=2
3. Proposal to transfer faculty and other instructional lines: YES=4; NO=0; Recuse=2
4. Proposal to change the name of the Department once the transfer has been approved: YES=4; NO=0; Recuse=2

Sincerely,



Abbas Benmamoun
Richard and Margaret Romano Professorial Scholar, Professor of Linguistics
Director of the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese
School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics
4080 Foreign Languages Building, MC-176
707 South Mathews Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801-3625 USA



Prof. Elabbas Benmamoun,

Director

School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics

October 8, 2013

Dear Abbas,

The Faculty of the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese met on Friday, October 4th at 3:30 pm to discuss and vote on a set of four proposals related to the transfer of all academic programs in Italian to the Department of French (to be renamed Department of French and Italian). All four proposals were unanimously approved, with a few minor amendments that have been incorporated to the text of the proposals.

These are the results of the vote:

1. Proposal to transfer undergraduate programs: YES =13; NO = 0; Abstain = 0
2. Proposal to transfer graduate programs: YES =13; NO = 0; Abstain = 0
3. Proposal to transfer faculty and other instructional lines: YES = 13; NO = 0; Abstain = 0
4. Proposal to change the name of the Department once the transfer has been approved: YES =13; NO = 0; abstain = 0

The faculty of the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese has also approved the amendments made by the faculty of the French Department.

Regards,

José I. Hualde
Professor and Acting Head

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Department of French
School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2090 Foreign Languages Building, MC-158
707 South Mathews Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801-3675



Professor Elabbas Benmamoun

Director

School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics

October 8, 2013

Dear Abbas,

The faculty of the Department of French met on Friday, October 4, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the four documents proposing the transfer of the Program in Italian to the Department of French. After proposing two changes in wording, it voted approved of the documents:

9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions (with one person absent)

The faculty has also approved the amendments made by the faculty in the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen L. Fresco".

Karen L. Fresco

Head

